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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Should elected public officials in the CNMI be required to undergo drug testing?
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INSIDE

NATION

A 15-year-old boy stows away to Hawaii aboard a jetliner's wheel well.
➤ PAGE 14

ASIA

The death toll from a South Korean ferry that sank nearly a week ago tops 100.
➤ PAGE 15

WHO ARE THE TWO CASINO APPLICANTS?

1 is part of HK food holdings, 1 linked to Dynasty's owner

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2 HOURS OR LESS OF SCREEN TIME A DAY
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A DIFFERENT APPROACH HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
A pickup truck drives past a giant signage that takes a different public health approach to promoting healthy living for the young ones, in front of Tanapag Elementary School. Tanapag has many of these eye-catching public health signs that are a product of different agencies' collaboration. Non-communicable diseases are the top causes of death in the CNMI so the government is emphasizing the promotion of active and healthy living.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

While the Inos administration has yet to release information about the two investor groups that applied for a license to exclusively develop a casino resort on Saipan,

» 'Best Sunshine' already in talks with 'parties' prior to casino bill's passage

Saipan Tribune learned that Best Sunshine International Ltd. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of a food holdings firm listed in the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, while Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc. is "partly" owned by the new owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Hong Kong-based Mega Stars Overseas Ltd.

Government records show that Marianas Stars has been incorporated in the

See CASINO on Page 4

24 survivors of shipboard fire arrive on Saipan

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Twenty-four survivors of a South Korean car carrier vessel that caught fire at sea arrived at Charlie Dock yesterday afternoon aboard the Panama-flagged ship that rescued them.

The refrigerated cargo ship *Asian Adonis* picked up the crew of *Asian Empire* after the latter caught fire 400 nautical miles southeast of Japan on April 19, forcing the crew to abandon ship into life rafts.

The Japanese Coast Guard then coordinated the response for the crew's rescue.

The survivors are currently billeted at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan where they are staying in 21 rooms.

According to the surviving crew, it took about three days for them to reach Saipan after *Asian Adonis*, manned by Captain Vicente Canlas Jr., rescued them.

According to the survivors, they were not injured and that their families have already been informed about their condition.

See SURVIVORS on Page 4

Prosecution rests case vs Crisostomo

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Crisostomo

The prosecution rested its case yesterday after the government's 31st witness, an FBI forensic examiner on nuclear DNA, completed her testimony in the ongoing jury trial in Superior Court of Joseph A. Crisostomo, who is accused of kidnapping and killing bartender Emerita R. Romero.

Interim chief prosecutor Brian Flaherty and assistant attorney general Margo Brown-Badawy, however, criticized Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho's decision to allow defense attorney Janet H. King to call to testify today, Wednesday, a rebuttal DNA expert via Skype despite the person's name being submitted only four days before trial started. The name was not on the pre-trial list of "likely witnesses."

Flaherty and Brown-Badawy said that Camacho's ruling is "extremely unduly

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'Next to Guam, CUC residential customers pay lowest rate' PAGE 3
CPTAB committee designates 131 temporary bus stops. PAGE 5

Local

PDM Promoters volunteers that included Kinpachi Restaurant staff and the Saipan Awaodori Team cleaned up Garapan's tourist district as part of their April cleanup on Monday April 21.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Over 800 lbs of trash collected in cleanup

PDM Promoters, Inc. Saipan collected about 820 lbs of trash in the tourist district of Garapan last April 21.

About 35 volunteers—including Awaodori Team members and Kinpachi Restaurant staff—took part in the monthly cleanup.

Unlike previous years when the non-profit group would hold its cleanup on a weekend, PDM Promoters held the April event on a Monday.

"We decided to do the cleanup with the kids this Monday since they don't have school yet," PDM Promoters coordinator Sonia Siwa said.

Trash was collected from the sides of the American Memorial Park and along the Paseo de Marianas.

In other news, 15 members of the Saipan Awaodori Team volunteered during the Saipan Marathon last Saturday, April 19.

"We set up a tent at the Garapan Fishing Base for the team members to cheer the [runners], together with one of our volunteer dressed as a Saipanda mascot," Siwa said.

The Saipanda was a courtesy of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Members were also given a certificate courtesy of Saipan Marathon organizers for helping out in the race. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

Two-day retreat for trustees, corporate officers set in May

Corporate officers of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., along with members of the board of trustees, are set to hold a brainstorming session to finally complete its much-awaited strategic planning for the agency.

Anthony Raho, chairman of the board's strategic planning panel, disclosed that participants are scheduled to get together for a two-day retreat, tentatively set on May 21-22, possibly at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

CHCC has contracted WestCare as its consultant for the strategic planning project using grant monies applied by the Pacific Island Health Officers Association for the CNMI. The grant is for the improvement of public health infrastructure that can be used to develop CHCC's strategic plan. About $100,000 is available for the CNMI each year.

According to Raho, WestCare will be on island to facilitate the two-day event.

Raho said that after the hiring of the corporation's CEO, the development of a strategic plan for the agency should have been the next priority of the organization.

"Developing the strategic plan is the second most important function of the board. WestCare is here to assist us to complete that task. I am hoping that in this group retreat, everyone will come prepared with their ideas and concept," Raho told colleagues during last week's board meeting.

The first day of the retreat is scheduled from 2pm to 6pm, while the second day is from 8am to 6pm.

Raho pointed out that the lack of a clear direction for the organization is the root cause of all problems it is currently facing.

"A lot of the problems we're absorbing today are outcomes of no clear strategic plan or direction for the last 10 years of this facility. This [project] is something we need to contribute to, give input to, and shape the future of our public hospital," added Raho.

WestCare will help develop both the agency's "Three-Year Strategic Plan" and an interim plan. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

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Over 60 trees planted in Lao Lao Beach

JAYSON CAMACHO

Hyatt Regency Saipan teams up with Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Hyatt's guests, and volunteers from different agencies to plant trees at the Lao Lao Beach as part of Hyatt's Global Community Service Month.

In celebration of Earth Day yesterday, volunteers from the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, and the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality planted over 60 trees at Lao Lao Beach in San Vicente.

Hyatt marketing communications manager Luis Villagomez was pleased with the turnout for the tree-plating event.

"It was really great. It's more than what we expected and the engagement of the guests is really giving us so much joy as a company and to be able to give back to the company and the environment is a really big encouragement for tourism and the community," Villagomez said.

BECQ's Lao Lao Bay Pride Campaign manager Jihan Buniag said the trees that were planted were Nanasu and Da'ok trees that are native to the Northern Marianas.

"This is our first time with Hyatt and it's a great thing that Hyatt and MINA are coming out to work with projects such as this," Buniag said.

Hyatt sales and marketing coordinator Dina Jones said that Hyatt's corporate office has designated April as Global Community Service Month.

"What we aim to do here is not just give back to the community but also involve our guest [from Hyatt] where they can come back in a couple of months and actually see the growth of the trees they have planted," she said.

MINA interim executive director Becky Furey said they wanted to strengthen their partnership with Hyatt and, as part of the "Nurturing Earth" initiative, they partnered with the global hotel chain and their guests to plant trees at Lao Lao Bay Beach.

"They gave us an opportunity to fundraise last year at the 'Hyatt Heart of Gold' and MINA was selected to be their beneficiary, so this year we celebrated with Hyatt's Global Community Service movement, and it is awesome that they brought their guests," Furey said.

One Hyatt guest, Nishita Fuminori, 65, was only too happy to participate, saying he enjoyed the activity.

"This is my first time on Saipan and it was very good. I love it here and I love that I got to plant the tree. I'll never forget where I planted this," Fuminori said.

He said he would be returning to Saipan to check on the tree that he planted and that he will be staying at Hyatt again.

Every April, Hyatt hotels around the world confirm their commitment to a higher purpose in life by giving something back to their communities. Through its corporate responsibility platform, Hyatt Thrive, the hotel and MINA partner with guests and other agencies in activities to preserve the environment. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

'Next to Guam, CUC residential customers are paying lowest rate'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A recent survey conducted by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s rate consultant, economists.com, revealed that its residential customers have the second lowest monthly utility billing in the Pacific.

Data obtained from the utilities agency show that Guam Ports Authority's residential patrons pay the lowest charge for their power supply, amounting to $136.63 per month. This is as of March 2014 and covers users of 500 kWh per month.

CUC residential customers who use 500 kWh monthly are charged $170.89.

The survey was conducted among 10 islands in the Pacific.

According to CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren, GPA had the overall lowest monthly charge for residential customers due to its use of less expensive fuel.

"The reason GPA is lower overall is that it burns a less expensive fuel (HFO or heavy fuel oil) than CUC. All the other utilities use the same fuel as CUC, which is No. 2 diesel," Warren told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

After GPA and CUC, Oahu comes next with its power company billing residential patrons using 500 kWh a monthly charge of $183.12.

Maui Electric Co. Limited, meanwhile, charges its residential customers $192.38 per month. American Samoa Power Authority charges residential users $200.79 per month.

Marshalls Electric Company is next with its $205.00 monthly charge for residential customers, followed by Hawaii Electric Light Company with $207.23; Kauai Electric Coop, $234.71; and Molokai, $239.29.

The survey indicates that among the Pacific island utilities, residential customers of Lanai currently pay the highest residential rate at $244.21 a month.

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher disclosed that diesel fuel remains the main source of power generation on many islands.

Based on CUC records, almost similar results came up in last year's survey. In March 2013, CUC was also on the second spot with the lowest electricity charge for residential customers compared to other utilities that use diesel fuel to produce power.

Since 2009, when rolling blackouts were a common occurrence in the CNMI, CUC had invested millions to upgrade its system and infrastructure. A lot of work, however, still needs to be done. Among these are the continuing upgrades to its power plants and pursuit of new energy sources, including solar and geothermal.

Fletcher earlier pointed out that before CUC engages in renewable energies, it has to be ready as a utility first, which means fully understanding the grid system and how much and where they can safely penetrate the system without causing instability.

At the last board meeting, Fletcher disclosed the result of a grid analysis conducted on CUC, which disclosed that only 8MW, or 5 percent of the current supply need, can be safety inserted into the grid system.

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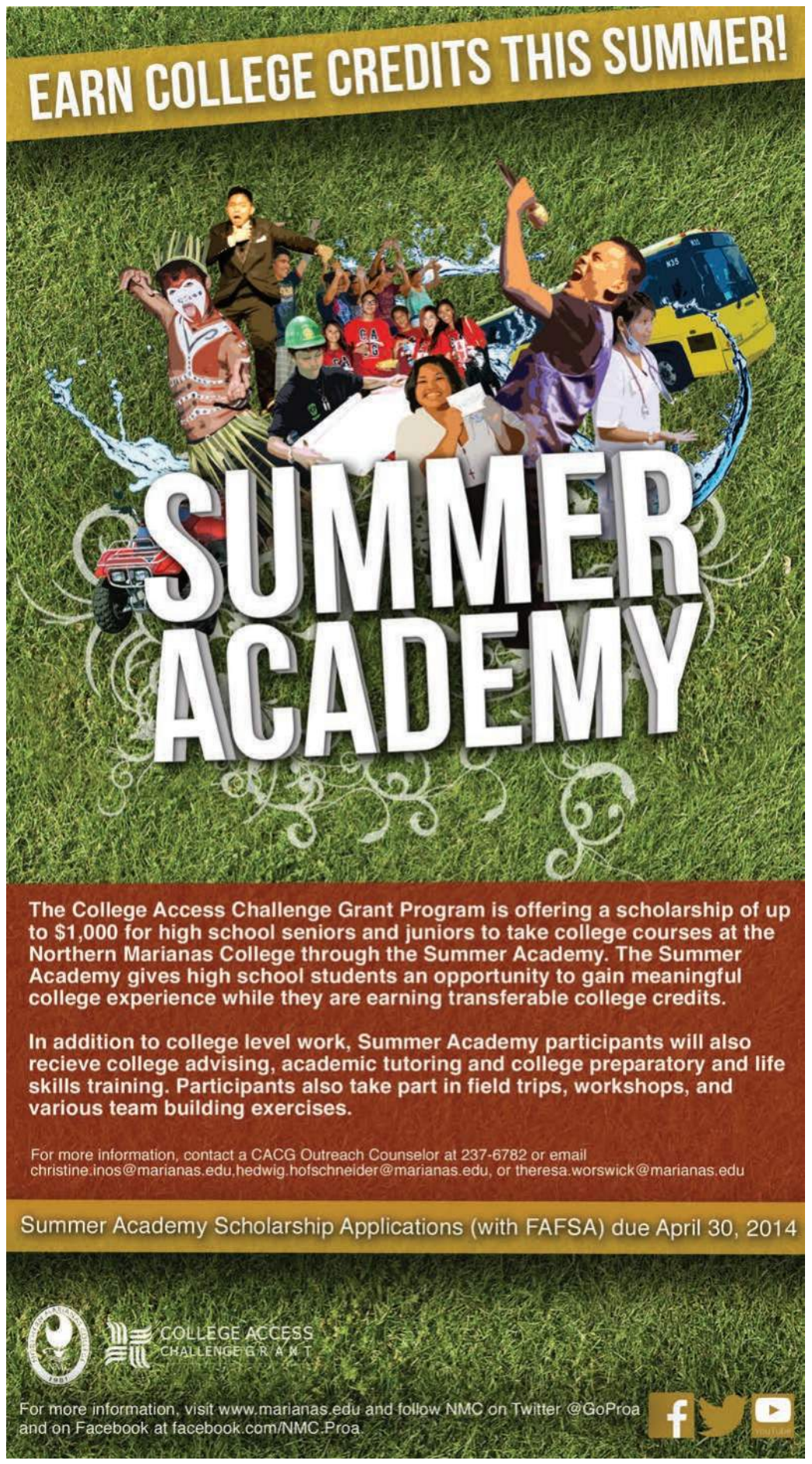
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For more information, contact a CACG Outreach Counselor at 237-6782 or email christine.inos@marianas.edu,hedwig.hofschneider@marianas.edu, or theresa.worswick@marianas.edu
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CASINO

From Page 1

CNMI and has a business license in the CNMI.

Best Sunshine, meanwhile, has yet to be incorporated in the CNMI and has yet to apply for a CNMI business license as of yesterday.

Marianas Stars used to be incorporated and licensed under the name Tinian Projects International Ltd. It was on April 15 that Tinian Projects amended its articles of incorporation and directors/officers, with the CNMI Registrar of Corporation.

In the morning of April 21, the deadline for filing a Saipan casino license, the now Marianas Stars also requested a change in its business name with the Business License Office.

That afternoon, Mariana Stars filed the casino license application with the CNMI government.

Cario Hon, chief executive officer of Mega Stars Overseas Ltd. that now owns Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, did not deny yesterday that Mega Stars "is one of the shareholders" of Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc.

Best Sunshine

Hong Kong-based Best Sunshine International Ltd. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of First Natural Foods Holdings Ltd., which is incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability.

As early as February 2014—even before the CNMI House of Representatives and the Senate passed the controversial Saipan casino bill on March 3 and 4, respectively—First Natural Foods or Best Sunshine already announced it has "been in contacts and discussions with certain parties in relation to several eco-tourism, entertainment, and gaming business."

In the latter part of 2013 and early part of 2014, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Senate vice president Victor Hocog (R-Rota), Sen. Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian), Sen. Joaquin Borja (Ind-Tinian), and House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) separately and/or jointly went to Hong Kong to meet with investors that at the time were interested in developing hotels in the CNMI.

Some lawmakers got to visit Hong Kong, Macau, and Singapore early this year.

On Feb. 20, Demapan prefiled a bill legalizing casino gaming on Saipan.

Four days later, on Feb. 24, First Natural Foods/Best Sunshine directors made the announcement about discussing tourism and gaming business with certain parties.

Eleven days after the casino bill's prefiling, the House passed it on March 3 without a committee report or public hearing.

A day later, the Senate passed the bill, catching many by surprise since the Senate had a track record of immediately killing any Saipan casino bill from the House from as far back as four years.

On April 15, First Natural Foods announced a proposal to change its name to "Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd." to provide a better identification for the company as it further diversifies its business.

It again mentioned a Feb. 24 announcement that the company's directors have recently been in preliminary contacts and discussions with certain parties in relation to eco-tourism, entertainment, and gaming business.

On April 21, the CNMI government's deadline for submitting applications for an exclusive Saipan casino license, First Natural Foods announced that Best Sunshine submitted a "preliminary application for the issuance of the Casino Resort Developer License for the Island of Saipan."

First Natural Foods also announced that Best Sunshine paid a nonrefundable $1 million application fee.

This is financed by an interest-free and unsecured shareholder's loan from Inventive Star Ltd., First Natural Foods' controlling shareholder.

First Natural Foods' board, however, emphasized that the application's submission and fee payment "represent a non-binding expression of interest to explore an investment opportunity in the gaming industry in Saipan."

It said the final grant of a casino resort developer license depends on various factors and the applicant may or may not proceed further with the application.

"…and even if the applicant proceeds with the application, the application may or may not succeed. Therefore, shareholders and potential investors of the company are advised to exercise caution when dealing in the securities of the company," First Natural Foods said in an April 21 announcement.

The Senate president reiterated yesterday that Best Sunshine "is not the company that we visited, or invited us."

Best Sunshine is just among the subsidiaries of First Natural Foods. Sources said CNMI elected officials may have met with representatives or officers of other companies under First Natural Foods.

Other lawmakers who went to Hong Kong either declined to disclose the name of the investors they met with or "forgot" the name.

What lawmakers say

Lawmakers, meanwhile, welcomed the fact that there are at least two applicants for a Saipan casino license and this, they said, creates competition.

Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan), one of the five CNMI senators that voted "yes" to the Saipan casino bill, said yesterday that he has "always been in support of competition."

"I am pleased that there are two interested parties, although I was really hoping that there would be more," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune.*

The Senate president echoed Reyes' statement. Torres said he was hoping for more "but very satisfied with two."

"I look forward to seeing their community contribution on top of the required license fee and infrastructure. This will increase the excise tax revenue once the construction phase begins. Thousands of jobs will be available for our people," he said.

What's next?

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the next step is for the deposit of $30 million in escrow by May 5, and the Lottery Commission's approval or denial of the applications by June 19.

The expected $30 million will be the one that the CNMI government will use to restore retirees' deferred 25-percent pension, as the governor promised and as stated in the amended Saipan casino law.

This comes seven years after Saipan voters rejected for the second time a casino question on the ballot.

An investor granted a license to exclusively operate a casino on Saipan is required to build a hotel-resort with at least 2,000 rooms and an initial investment of $2 billion.

For decades, casino gaming was legal only on Tinian and Rota. It was only on March 21 this year that a bill became law allowing casino gaming also on Saipan.

Right now, the only operating casino in the CNMI is the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, now owned by Hong Kong-based Mega Stars Overseas Ltd.

SURVIVORS

From Page 1

They shopped for clothes and shoes soon after arriving on Saipan yesterday afternoon.

The rescued crew consisted of 13 Filipino nationals and 11 Korean nationals.

The Filipino nationals were identified as Fernando Jagunap, William Agpawa Jr., Jeffrey Masong, Julises Castillo, Arnel Belicena, Ryan Alagos Odrada, Nemrod Atindan, Wenison Visayana, Allan Ray Capito, Gil de Padua Villaruel, Aristotle Tuliao, Reynaldo Boloron, and Robin Margarijo. The identities of the Korean nationals were not immediately available.

Saipan Tribune learned that Wilhelmsen Ship Management Korea sent a representative from Korea, Pyong Hee Kim, to represent the survivors of *Asian Empire.*

According to Kim, the Filipino nationals will be leaving Saipan this Friday, April 25, and will be heading to Incheon, South Korea, then to the Philippines. The Korean nationals, meanwhile, will be leaving Saturday due to further investigations.

According to the United Filipino Organization president Annamae Adaza, the Philippine Consulate of Guam called her, informing her to coordinate with the group and their concerns.

Adaza and UFO secretary Mario Mayuga met with the Filipino nationals and discussed their concerns and coordinated their needs.

Saipan Tribune learned that the survivors couldn't release detailed information of what happened on the ship due to the ongoing investigation.

A person in charge who works for Ambyth Shipping, Mario Punzalan, was taking care of the survivors and seeing to their accommodations at the hotel.

The Japanese Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection Saipan, the vessel's agent, and U.S Coast Guard Sector Guam coordinated efforts to ensure the safe arrival of the 24 survivors.

PROSECUTION

From Page 1

prejudicial" to the Commonwealth. The prosecutors asked the judge to issue a written order because they are going to appeal it.

Camacho said he is not happy with King's filing of notice several weeks after the deadline but that he will hold a hearing today, Wednesday, via Skype to determine whether the defendant's rebuttal witness, Dr. David Haymer, is qualified to testify as a DNA expert.

Interim chief prosecutor Flaherty rested the government's case yesterday after the examinations of FBI forensic examiner Susannah Kehl that lasted over two hours.

King asked the court to resume trial today, Wednesday, to allow her to call two expert witnesses who are based in Honolulu, Hawaii, and the United Kingdom. She said the two are only available to testify via Skype.

In the government's opposition, Flaherty pointed out that Haymer is not even on the "likely witnesses" list.

Camacho asked King to provide the court with case law or grounds for her request in order for their witnesses to testify via Skype without filing a 14-day notice as required by rules.

King said it is because of the testimony of FBI forensic examiner Kehl that they want a rebuttal witness.

Camacho told King that she knew from the very beginning that the government will be calling a DNA expert so it should no longer surprise her.

King later told the court that she will call only one rebuttal witness, Dr. Haymer, who is a professor of cell and molecular biology at the University of Hawaii.

Camacho then placed the matter under advisement.

When the trial resumed yesterday afternoon, King called to the witness stand police detective Simon Manacop, who is the lead case agent in the Romero case.

Manacop testified how he became involved in the investigation into Romero's murder and how their investigation led to Crisostomo as the suspect.

Manacop stated among other things, that the tire tracks found in Garapan, where Romero was last seen boarding into a car, were compared to the tires of a Toyota Corolla with license plate ACG-246 that Crisostomo was driving in the early morning of Feb. 5, 2012.

Manacop said the tire tracks were found to have not enough value as evidence as they did not match the Toyota Corolla.

Manacop said it was FBI special agent Haejun Park who made the determination regarding the tire tracks. He said he did not see the tracks.

Manacop also corroborated the FBI's and police's testimonies that their initial persons of interests were Romero's boyfriend, Taj Van Buuren, and taxi driver Sae Bong Kim.

The detective said the investigation shifted to Crisostomo when the latter's former common-law wife, Joanne Castro, told them about seeing Crisostomo driving a rental car that fits the description of the car that Romero reportedly boarded in Garapan.

Manacop said the FBI Lab results and phone records also then came out that led their investigation to Crisostomo.

Manacop said that Van Buuren and Kim were later cleared as persons of interests after they established, based on phone records and interviews, that the two indeed met at Van Buuren's house in Chalan Piao after Kim failed to find Romero, who he was supposed to pick up at her house in Garapan.

Manacop said he himself and other detectives identified Crisostomo's voice in Romero's 911 call.

The prosecution played a portion of the 911 call during which the voice of a crying Romero could be heard. Flaherty then asked Manacop what Romero was saying at that time. Manacop explained that Romero was saying to Crisostomo that she did not call anybody.

Manacop said his understanding is that Crisostomo knew that Romero had a cell phone. He said that Romero's Blackberry cell phone was never recovered.

Manacop said that in the 911 recording, Romero could be heard saying, "Let me pick up my pants, "my neck hurts," and "my neck's hurting."

The autopsy revealed that the 37-year-old Romero died of strangulation with the use of a pair of leggings.

After Manacop's testimony, the lawyers again discussed the issue of allowing King to call a rebuttal DNA expert from Hawaii via Skype despite her failure to file a 14-day notice.

King said that if Haymer is not allowed to testify via Skype, she will request for funding to arrange for him to come to Saipan.

Flaherty said that King filed a notice of their experts on April 3, 2014, four days before the trial.

After a break, Camacho announced his ruling. He cited the rules of practice that requires a 14-day notice in requesting to file the witness list. Camacho said the rules allow if there is exceptional ground.

Camacho said that being unprepared to anticipate a witness is not exceptional. He, however, expressed concern about the possible delay in the murder trial.

The judge cited some possible results if the court either allows or not permit the defense to call their rebuttal witness, which according to King will be their last witness.

Upon hearing that the court will allow Haymer to testify via Skype, Flaherty reiterated the government's arguments.

"The rule is a rule. The rule has a strong language," Flaherty said.

King said they did not anticipate calling Haymer until after Kehl's testimony, particularly on "mixture of DNA" found in Romero's vaginal swabs.

Assistant attorney general Brown-Badawy said it's "greatly unduly prejudicial" to the government as they have no time to review Haymer's papers.

Brown-Badawy said they also have not talked with Kehl about Haymer being a rebuttal witness.

Flaherty said this witness, described by King as a rebuttal witness, is not on the defendant's witness list.

"The defense counsel is asking at the 11th hour and 59 minutes for the court's leniency," Flaherty said.

King said the court already made a ruling and that it's not a last-minute notice because Haymer is their DNA expert and that she submitted his name four days before the trial.

Flaherty said that Crisostomo's three court-appointed counsels chose not to comply with the rule because they have that information about DNA for over a year now.

King extensively grilled Kehl, who explained her findings that Crisostomo's DNA matched the DNA obtained from swab samples taken from the vagina of Romero.

Kehl explained how she conducted her tests that led to her concluding the positive presence of semen in Romero's vagina.

Kehl said the test results show that the major DNA contributor from the swab samples was Crisostomo.

Prior to the autopsy conducted on Romero on Feb. 7, 2012, or shortly after her body was found at the former La Mall, a rape test-kit was administered on her body and swab samples were taken from the mouth, rectum, and vagina and submitted to the FBI Lab for analysis.

House panel to press Finance and OMB on proposed FY 2015 budget

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chair Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday that his panel will call in next week officials of the Department of Finance and Office of Management and Budget to shed light and answer lawmakers' questions on the governor's proposed $134-million budget for fiscal year 2015.

Sablan said the committee would have to meet first with Finance and OMB officials tentatively on April 31 before finalizing a draft concurrent resolution on the 2015 budget.

"We would be reviewing with Finance and OMB the governor's budget submission, the revenue projections, the sources of revenues. We want to hear from the administration how they came up with $134 million," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune.*

He said lawmakers will also be expected to ask questions whether any Saipan casino-related revenues are already incorporated into the budget. Electronic gaming is already included in the projected revenues for 2015.

Sablan said the committee is also awaiting the governor's supplemental budget for fiscal year 2014, which would help them review and analyze the 2015 proposed budget.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said Monday the supplemental budget could be submitted to the Legislature as early as this week. He said it could be between $8 million and $9 million, but they would be strictly for the additional $5 million needed to complete the government's fiscal year 2014 payment to the retirement settlement trust fund and the government health insurance premium.

Sablan said the committee would also look into government agencies' unpaid obligations to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. of over $20 million, which critics say is among the reasons why CUC does not have enough funds to operate or proposes increased rates.

"We have to start addressing government obligations to CUC," he added.

The Ways and Means Committee will also be calling in certain agencies for a hearing on their 2015 budgets.

Sablan said agencies should not expect a drastic change in their budget as proposed by the governor because the additional projected resources available for government operations in 2015 are mostly going toward the retirement settlement trust fund and increased government health insurance premiums, as well as the payment for legal fees in the Betty Johnson lawsuit and settlement.

CPTAB committee designates 131 temporary bus stops

The ad hoc committee on bus stop designation under the Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board has completed bus stop designation field work and so far designated a total of 131 temporary bus stops both north and south of Saipan.

The committee met at the American Memorial Park last Feb. 13 to discuss and carry out the agenda on bus stop sites, which also involved identifying "potential" sites based on the feasibility study for the Saipan Fixed-Flex Route and Paratransit System.

Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority administrator Tom Camacho, who created committee, said that these are only temporary bus stops.

"The final count of bus stops for the routes is pending on the committee's and my office's approval but we are estimating to reach a total of 150 bus stops for the Saipan Fixed-Flex Route and Paratransit System," Camacho said.

"These bus stops are temporary and are selected by the committee based on 'points of interest' and the number of business establishments and residences in the area," he added.

According to Camacho, points of interest are places where people visit due to employment, shopping, health services, and government agencies.

The committee was successful in identifying possible bus stop locations at all points of interests listed, which included one-third of Route 1 (from Garapan to south of Saipan).

Camacho said that not all of the 131 bus stops that have been identified so far would stay once the transit system goes into action.

"They are only temporary for now. The bus stops that will stay will be based on the number of people using those bus stops," he said.

According to Camacho, the committee will dissolve as soon as the designation of bus stops is done.

The routes that have been identified for bus stop designation range from As Matuis all the way to Koblerville and as far as Kagman.

The bus stop designation ad hoc committee members are Saipan Mayor Donald Flores (Henry Hofschneider, designee); Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero; Department of Public Works Secretary Martin C. Sablan (Noberto Mendiola, designee); Pam C. Sablan, executive director (Ray Diaz, designee), CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities; Joaquin B. Songsong, director, Land Registration and Survey, Department of Land and Natural Resources (Paul Camacho, designee); Gary Camacho, Power Division manager, Commonwealth Utilities Corp.; and Emetario Fitial, Center for Living Independently, Call-a-Ride customer. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

Voters' action eyed on mandatory drug testing for elected officials

Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that if a planned override of the governor's veto of a bill requiring elected public officials to submit to drug testing fails, then he would introduce a legislative initiative to put the question before voters in November.

"The legislative initiative would be my last resort if we are unable to override the veto. Let the people decide whether they want all their elected public officials to undergo drug testing," Leon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune.*

The lawmaker said he has started asking his colleagues' support in overriding the governor's veto of his House Bill 18-152, as amended.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in his veto message, said HB 18-152, House Draft 2 may violate constitutional rights and is "vague and problematic."

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) also said that he will be seeking his fellow lawmakers' support in overriding the governor's veto of his bill imposing higher fines on those who fail to maintain automotive liability insurance and urges vehicle owners to register their vehicle on time. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

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SUMMIT DATES
Monday, April 21, 2014 at Pacific Islands Club, for Parents of Saipan Southern High School Seniors
Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at World Resort, for Parents of Marianas High School Seniors
Wednesday April 23, 2014 at Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort, for Parents of Kagman High School (Kagman, Papago, Capitol Hill) Seniors
Thursday, April 24, 2014 at Aqua Resort, for Parents of Kagman High School (San Roque, As Matuis, Tanapag) Seniors
Monday, April 28, 2014 at Rota's Bayview Hotel, for Parents of Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr/Sr High School Seniors
Tuesday, April 29. 2014 at Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, for Parents of Tinian Jr/Sr High School Seniors
ALL Parent Summits will be held from 5:00pm to 7:30pm. There is no fee to attend the summits. Light refreshments will be served. Visit marianas.edu to register.

NMC 1981 NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT

Lord remains open for settlement but CNMI unwilling

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Betty Johnson's California-based counsel, Timothy Lord, has informed the federal court that he remains ready to negotiate with the CNMI government in connection with his petition for attorney's fees and costs, but that the CNMI, as of last Sunday, appears unwilling to engage in further negotiation.

Lord notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Sunday that assistant attorney general Teresita Sablan, counsel for the CNMI, has informed Hawaii chief bankruptcy judge Robert Faris that the Commonwealth refuses to make another offer beyond the only offer ever made to him to settle the matter.

Lord said the amount offered is, however, effectively reduced since he incurred travel expenses after that offer to attend the evidentiary hearing on Saipan.

Lord did not disclose in his notice how much the CNMI offered him to settle his petition.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood has given the CNMI government and Johnson's counsels Lord and Hawaii-based Bronster Hoshibata until Friday, April 25, to resolve the issue on attorney's fees and costs.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she will decide on the matter herself if no resolution is reached by then.

Lord's initial demand was either $3.6 million or $5.9 million. Bronster Hoshibata is demanding $17.5 million. The judge placed their petitions under advisement.

Tinian's National Library Week a big success

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tinian Public Library successfully completed National Library Week with a costume contest among participating children.

The Tinian Public Library held its National Library Week celebration last week in collaboration with the Joeten Kiyu Public Library and the Tinian Mayor's Office. The event drew over 130 students from kindergarten to 12th grade who participated in various scheduled activities.

National Library Week on Tinian kicked off with Amnesty Week, which waived off overdue fines and lost material fees.

Lucy Blanco-Maratita, vice chair of the Board of Education under the Public School System, and Fr. Jesse Reyes of Tinian's San Jose Parish led the second day of activities with the Read-Aloud and Arts and Crafts activity.

The last days of Library Week saw three contests held, which included a keyboarding skills and speed test, the Dewey Hunt, and "I Love This Book" costume contest. Library Week on Tinian concluded with a movie night.

TPL supervisor Lorna Cruz said the turnout was great and the weeklong activities a complete success.

"The staff and I would like to extend our heartfelt and sincere appreciation to these individuals for their generous contribution and support," Cruz said.

They included Lt. Jude U. Hofschneider, Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), Sen. Francisco M. Borja (Ind-Tinian), members of the 13th Tinian Municipal Council, Star Marianas Air, Inc., Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Bridge Investment Group, Michaela U. Sanchez, NMC Board of Regents, Lisa Aguon and director Jasper M. Borja, Department of Labor, and CPA Assistant Ports Manager Gerald K. Crisostomo. Appreciation is also extended to costume contest judges Chavelyn P. Epity, Mary Ann C. Dela Cruz, and Katie Castro. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

ERRATUM

In the story titled "13 students hailed winners in NJFL regionals" that was published on April 16, 2014, it erroneously stated that Marianas Baptist Academy's Minju Kang won gold for prose reading interpretation. The correct winner is Hopwood Junior High School's Kelvin Wolf, who won two golds for prose reading interpretation and dramatic interpretation. Our apologies.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE GUAM AND COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS MILITARY RELOCATION (2012 ROADMAP ADJUSTMENTS) AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Department of the Navy (DON) is announcing the availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Military Relocation (2012 Roadmap Adjustments). The Draft SEIS supplements the Final EIS "Guam and CNMI Military Relocation; Relocating Marines from Okinawa, Visiting Aircraft Carrier Berthing, and Army Air and Missile Defense Task Force" dated July 2010. The Record of Decision for the Final EIS was signed on September 20, 2010, and published in the Federal Register on September 30, 2010 (Volume 75, Number 189, Page 60438). The DON prepared this Draft SEIS for the purpose of supplementing the portions of the 2010 Final EIS regarding the establishment on Guam of a cantonment (including family housing), a live-fire training range complex (LFTRC), and associated infrastructure to support the relocation of a substantially reduced number of Marines and dependents than was previously analyzed.

The Navy will host public meetings on Guam to obtain comments on the Draft SEIS. All comments will become part of the public record and will help officials make informed decisions on the proposed action. The meetings will be comprised of two parts: (1) an informational open house and (2) public hearing.

The public is encouraged to attend the meetings, which will be held on the following dates, times, and locations:

- Saturday, May 17, 2014, open house from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and public hearing from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Okkodo High School, 660 Route 3, Dededo;
- Monday, May 19, 2014, open house from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and public hearing from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Father Dueñas Memorial School Phoenix Center, 119 Dueñas Lane, Chalan Pago; and
- Tuesday, May 20, 2014, open house from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and public hearing from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Gymnasium, Naval Base Guam – Santa Rita Annex, Bldg. 4177 (former McCool School), Naval Magazine Road Santa Rita.

During the open house portion of the meetings, informational posters will be displayed and DON representatives will be available to discuss the proposed action, answer questions, and to accept written comments from the public. A Chamorro interpreter will be available. Oral comments will be recorded during the public hearing portion of the meetings. Speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes to ensure all who wish to speak have an opportunity to do so. If a long statement is to be presented, it should be summarized at the public hearing and the full text submitted in writing. These meetings will also serve to provide information to the public about how the 2011 Programmatic Agreement fulfills the requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the proposed action.

Interested agencies, individuals, and groups unable to attend the public meetings are encouraged to submit comments by June 17, 2014, Chamorro Standard Time (ChST). Mailed comments should be postmarked no later than June 17, 2014, ChST to ensure they are considered.

Mail comments to: Joint Guam Program Office Forward
P.O. Box 153246
Santa Rita, Guam 96915

Comments may also be submitted via the website (http://guambuildupeis.us). Point of contact is Commander Curtis Duncan, Joint Guam Program Office at (703) 602-3825. On Guam, contact Major Darren Alvarez, Joint Guam Program Office Forward, at (671) 339-3337.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CUC'S PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE TARIFF IMPLEMENTATION AND PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 22, 2014

This is a notice of a formal request to increase the rates, fees and/or charges of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC"), and to notify ratepayers of the public hearing before the CNMI Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") which regulates CUC pursuant to Public Law 15-35, as amended. On July 5, 2013, CUC filed a petition and supporting evidence with the Commission to raise its rates and its electric fees and charges, under Docket 13-01. CUC filed a first amendment to the petition on November 8, 2013. At the Commission's business meeting, it deferred consideration of the Standby Charge for CUC to submit further information and give commercial customers a further chance to comment. CUC withdrew its request for the Standby Charge on April 15, 2014. CUC, after further investigation, believes that it would be prudent to develop an Incentive Rate Rider to the existing Commercial Rate which would be available to customers with a generating capacity of 400 kW or more and who self-generate 90% or more of their annual usage. If granted, the Tariff Rider IR to the Commercial Rate will become effective **June 23, 2014**, or as otherwise determined by the Commission. The justification is to offer a rate which is low enough to encourage very large users who are currently not full requirements customers of CUC to become full requirements customers. The goal is to be able to reduce rates for all customers if enough very large customers come back onto the CUC grid.

The Commission will conduct a public hearing on **May 22, 2014, at 9:00 a.m.,** at the Commonwealth Development Authority Conference Room, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, to receive evidence, argument, discussion and public comment on a number of other issues previously noticed, which will now include the Large Commercial Customer Incentive Rate Tariff ("Tariff Rider IR"). Commercial customers are invited to comment before or at the public hearing. The Commission will later conduct a special business meeting to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearing.

Tariff Rider IR to the Commercial Rate will set the Electric Base Rate at 4 cents per kilowatt hour. In other words, the Tariff Rider IR to the Commercial Rate will provide a reduction of 7.3 cents per kWh from CUC's Commercial Electric Base Rate for three years from the date the Tariff Rider IR is adopted by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

Eligible customers are existing customers who currently generate 90% or more of their annual electric requirements and have installed generation capacity of 400 kW or greater. New commercial customers with generation capacity of 400 kW or greater also qualify. For existing customers who currently purchase all of their electric requirements from CUC, any expansion of their existing operations which results in an increase in load of 400 kW or greater, the new load will qualify.

The Tariff Rider IR to the Commercial Rate supplemental testimony and tariff, along with all previous testimony and filings in this rate case, are available on CUC's website at: http://www.cucgov.org. Please let the cursor float over "Announcements" then bring the cursor down and let it float over "Regulatory Matters/Public Utilities Commission." You will see each filing, and can click on a filing individually to view or download the documents A written copy of all petition materials will also be available for inspection at the following places: CUC Admin Office: Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building; CUC Tinian Office; CUC Rota Office.

CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

NMC Class of 2014: One of the largest in 5 years

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College expects to graduate one of its largest classes this year.

This will also be the first time that the School of Education will be graduating students with a Bachelor of Science in Education with a concentration in Special Education. This concentration, along with the "Rehabilitation and Human Services" and "Early Childhood Education" concentrations, were introduced about three years ago.

The college disclosed yesterday that it expects to confer associate and bachelor's degrees to about 171 students, slightly lower than the 180 it graduated last year, which was the biggest graduating class in the last five years.

The associate degree in liberal arts program is expected to have the highest number of graduates this year, with 70 potential graduates. Next with the biggest batch is the bachelor's degree in Elementary Education concentration, with 24 students.

Other programs have the following potential graduates this year: business, three; accounting, six; business management, eight; computer application, five; criminal justice, seven; hospitality management, five; and natural resource management, six.

The associate degree in nursing program is expected to confer diplomas on 23 students; Early Childhood Education concentration, three; rehabilitation and human services concentration, eight; and special education concentration, three.

"The college is proud of the large number of graduates that will be marking a major milestone in their lives. We are also pleased to be conferring the bachelor's in education concentration in special education, for the first time," said NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart. "Many of our graduates have had to overcome significant challenges and obstacles to earn their degrees, and we commend all of them for their commitment and dedication in meeting their educational goals. We hope that other members of the community join us during the commencement ceremony to cheer on the graduates and offer their congratulations."

The college's 34th Commencement Exercise will take place on May 24, 2014.

During the ceremony, several academic and achievement awards will be presented.

The 171 potential graduates is preliminary and a final total will be known once grades for the current semester have been posted by the college.

TAGAMAN 25th SAIPAN TAGAMAN TRIATHLON ALL ISLANDERS CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

Taga, Inc.,the organizing committee of the 25th Annual Tagaman Triathlon & 13th Annual Saipan Xterra Championship would like to thank the following businesses and agencies for making these events a great success for the past 25 years:

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- Delta Airlines
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- Division of Parks & Recreation
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- Dr. Jack Hardy/Saipan Photo Lab
- Elite Printing
- Emergency Management Office
- Explorer Post 906
- Far East Broadcasting Company
- Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan
- First Hawaiian Bank
- Gold's Gym
- Hawaiian Rock
- Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc.
- Hyatt Regency Saipan
- IP&E
- J's Restaurant
- Japan Triathlon Union (JTU)
- ALL Japan Triathlon Club (ATC)
- JTL Timing
- Vista Media Services
- World Wide Insurance
- Delta Management Corporation
- 3HI.Res Designs
- Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
- KFC Triathlon Club of Japan
- Organizers of Taga Kids
- Kinpachi Restaurant
- Marianas High School Students Volunteer
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- NMC Nursing Students
- NMIFA/Paire Football Club
- Northern Marianas Athletics
- Northern Marianas Triathlon Federation
- Office of the Governor
- Pacific Care
- Pacific Development, Inc.
- Pacific Financial Corporation
- Pacific Subsea Saipan, Inc.
- Pacific Trading Company
- Saipan Bike Pro
- Saipan Health Clinic
- Saipan Mayor's Office
- Saipan Swim Club
- Saipan Tribune
- Saipan TV Production
- SEAFIX
- Sea Star, Inc.
- The Athlete's Foot
- Top Development, Inc.
- Verizon
- World Tour & Travel
- Kagman High School Students Volunteer
- Saipan International High School Students Volunteer
- Team Unlimited
- Department of Public Works
- Island Apparel

Special thanks to the different landowners, volunteers, supporters, fans and general public for their kind understanding and patience in the staging of these successful events.

Corporation to form CHC Foundation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of trustees disclosed that the public hospital would soon create a foundation arm that would help address some of its needs. The CHCC Foundation, once established, will work side by side with the CHC Volunteers Association.

During Thursday's board meeting, corporation CEO Esther Muna said she will soon meet with the volunteers' group to work on this.

Muna also reported that a request for proposal is being finalized for publication of this goal.

"But before we put out the RFP, we want to meet first with the CHC Volunteers," she said, adding that release of the request for proposal is tentatively planned for next month.

Board member Anthony Raho described the incorporation of the volunteers' group and the new foundation as a great idea to avoid starting from the scratch. He lauded the association's commitment in helping CHC for many years.

CHC Volunteers is a non-profit organization that makes about $100,000 a year. Over the years, the group has donated millions dollars worth of equipment to the public hospital. The association was chartered in 1986.

Not a priority

Citing the challenges faced by the public hospital and the meager budget allotted it every year by the central government, Muña said it seems that health care is not a priority on the islands.

When the CHCC was created in fiscal year 2011, it was allocated a meager $5 million seed money for its transition on the first year and only $1.9 million the following year. For fiscal year 2014, the corporation got only $2 million in local appropriation.

"Healthcare in the CNMI is not a priority as evidenced by the $2 million annual government appropriation," Muña told the board, adding that CHCC must constantly reassess its priorities to ensure that funds are spent where it's absolutely necessary while ensuring that CMS compliance requirements are not jeopardized.

According to Muna, "The CEO, CFO, along with the advisory board of trustees, need to aggressively send the message to the governor and the lawmakers that CHCC, with the responsibility of the health of the entire CNMI population, need to be reimbursed for providing uncompensated care."

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Maga'haga award winner to be named at gala

TAMUNING, Guam—The 2014 First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga award recipient will be announced on Saturday, April 26, at the ninth annual Businesswoman of the Year Award Gala at the Hyatt Regency Guam. The award program brings recognition to businesswomen who have made significant contributions to their industries and have demonstrated a strong commitment to their community.

The 2014 nominees are Cynthia V. Ecube, attorney, Law Offices of Cynthia V. Ecube; Mildred M. Gabriel, president and lead pharmacist, Meggs Corp., which does business as Guam Rexall Drugs; Monica O. Guzman, CEO and managing director, Galaide Group LLC; Eloisa D. Hudson, owner, Sunglasses, etc., Etcetera Boutique, and ba6 Apparel; Sandra E. Low, owner, Opus One; Liza Ann J. Provido, principal architect, Provido Tan Jones Architects, Inc.; Pamela S. Quinata, general manager and area sales manager, Xerox Corp,; Ester F. Sablan, owner, Saipan Music & Dance Studio; Shirley Ann T. Sablan, executive vice president and general manager, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters; and Deanne S.N. Torre, managing partner, Bigfish Creative.

The winner will be announced at approximately 9:30pm at the gala. The media is cordially invited to the award presentation for photos and interview opportunities. The *Guam Business Magazine* May-June issue, featuring a commissioned photo study of the winner on its cover, will be released in conjunction with the announcement of the winner's name.

Proceeds from the gala will fund scholarships at the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College. ***(PR)***

Singers, bands invited to NMC Charter Day competitions

The Northern Marianas College is seeking individuals or groups who are interested in competing for the college's Charter Day competitions: Marianas Idol, and the Battle of the Bands competition.

The Marianas Idol competition showcases the CNMI's singers while the Battle of the Bands allows bands from different musical genres to compete.

The Northern Marianas College Charter Day, one of the islands' biggest celebrations, will take place on Friday, May 16, 2014, from 5pm to 10pm at NMC's As Terlaje campus.

"We'll be showcasing various programs, delicious food and thirst quenching drinks from many of the local vendors, and we will be featuring great entertainment," said Ervin Cruz, Charter Day Committee chair.

Those interested in competing in any of the competitions can pick up an application form from the NMC Student Center in Building J, or can download application forms or rules at www.marianas.edu. There is no application fee for any of the competitions.

Applications for the competitions are due Friday, May 2, 2014, by 5pm. Contestants will be contacted no later than May 3, 2014, to schedule the dates and times for auditions. The auditions for the Marianas Idol singing competition will be on May 8, 2014, at the Student Center, and the auditions for the Battle of the Bands will be held on May 7, 2014, at the Saipan Southern High School Band Room at 4:30pm.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The True Illusion band competes in the Battle of the Bands competition in last year's Charter Day celebration. This year's Charter Day will be on Friday, May 16, 2014, and will also feature the highly anticipated Marianas Idol competition and many other performances.

For the Battle of the Bands, groups are required to bring their own equipment.

In addition to inviting participants for the competitions, the Charter Day Planning Committee is also inviting agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations to participate by purchasing booth space for the following categories: food/drink, game booths, retail (arts and crafts, toys etc.), and information.

The deadline to submit applications for booth spaces is on Friday, May 9, 2014. Booth space is limited so applications should be submitted as soon the deadline is announced. The booth fee is $75 for NMC clubs and nonprofit organizations and $150 for commercial vendors.

For more information about booth spaces, contact Queanna Sablan at 234-5498 Ext. 6790 or email her at queanna.sablan@marianas.edu.

Additional information about NMC Charter Day is also available online at www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 23, 2006

Fitial offers land to honor Japan emperor

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has volunteered his family land for the construction of a memorial commemorating the 2005 visit of Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko to Saipan. "I have offered my own family land in Marpi to build a memorial in honor of Emperor Akihito's recent visit to the Commonwealth," said Fitial in his first annual State of the Commonwealth Address on April 22. The emperor and empress made a historic visit to Saipan on June 28 and 29, 2005, to mourn the World War II dead.

Pete A: CNMI retains Headnote consultant

The CNMI government continues to get assistance from a consultant in Washington D.C. for the amendment of the Headnote 3(a) of the U.S. Harmonized Tariff Code, said Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio. In an interview after Friday's State of the Commonwealth Address, Tenorio said that the government has retained the services of the consultant that was hired by the previous administration. "We still have the consultant," said Tenorio. The Babauta administration had hired Sandler, Travis, and Rossenberg to help the CNMI lobby Congress for the tariff amendment, which would help boost the local garment manufacturers' competitiveness in the world market.

April 23, 2007

DoF wants rebate class suit dismissed

The Department of Finance has asserted that the federal court has no jurisdiction over the tax rebates class lawsuit filed against DoF and therefore should dismiss the case. Assistant attorney general R. Anthony Welch, counsel for DoF, said the plaintiffs' causes of action for recovery of rebates are vested in the CNMI Superior Court and are not causes arising under the Constitution or treaties of the United States. "The only possibility of district court jurisdiction is if the territorial tax code is a law of the United States. It is not," said Welch in DoF's motion to dismiss.

Governor gets 'death threat' call

The Office of the Governor received an anonymous call on austerity day Friday, allegedly making a death threat against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. A staff at the Governor's Office received the call in the morning while the governor was in a conference room holding a meeting with the military task force. The incident was immediately reported to the Department of Safety and police were deployed to the Governor's Office to make the necessary investigation. Sources from the community said that since the Governor's Office telephones have caller ID, the caller—a woman—was traced and arrested soon after.

April 23, 2008

New category eyed for long-term aliens

Saipan lawmakers are expected to pre-file today a bill that will allow long-time foreign workers to stay for five-year periods in the Commonwealth whether they have jobs or not. The unsigned bill, a copy of which was obtained by the Saipan Tribune last night, proposes to create a new immigration category of "resident foreign nationals." A foreign worker may apply for a resident foreign national entry permit if he or she has lived legally in the CNMI for at least five years and has met character requirements. A resident foreign national entry permit is valid for five years and may be renewed.

Senate chooses to let PUC set the utility rates for the NMI

The Senate shelved yesterday a bill that would reverse the October 2007 rollback of power rates. By a unanimous vote, the senators decided that no action be taken on House Bill 16-79 until the Public Utilities Commission is ready to set new rates for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Meantime, the power rate for low-end power users will remain at 17.6 cents per kWh. The action was taken at the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication. In a report, the committee said it was "simply unacceptable" that PUC, which was created over a year ago, had yet to organize or regulate rates. This failure, according to the panel, has "left the utilities functionally unregulated and the public at the mercy of the utilities."

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary**
   a. **Call to Order**
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
II. **Public Comments**[i]
III. **Reports**
   a. Chair's Report
   b. Executive Director's Report
IV. **Unfinished Business**
   a. USPC Transactional Permit re: Approval of Training Component
   b. Approval of JVA for Investigator II
V. **New Business**
   a. Refund Request per Regulation §170-30.2-725
   b. Appeal per Gaming Act Section 91
   c. TDHC Casino Employee Applications and Hotel Registrations
VI. **Executive Session**[ii]
VII. **Miscellaneous/Administrative Matters**
VIII. **Adjournment**

[1] Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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Saipan MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 288-6952

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of	)	FCD-AD-CIVIL
The Adoption Of:	)	ACTION
R.T.M. (d.o.b. 7/13/2001)	)	NO. 14-0176
Minor Child	)	
	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By:	)	
	)	
Justino & Laisang Ramon	)	
Petitioner(s)		

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on May 12, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Govendo.

Dated this 16th day of April, 2014.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB14-DLNR-089

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 02, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

E-BID SUBMISSION IS AUTHORIZED FOR THIS ITB TO procurement@pticom.com NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, MAY 02, 2014

"CNMI STATE COMPREHENZIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES."

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITIATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB14-DPS/OHSR-095

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 16, 2014
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A LED SIGN TRAILER FOR THE TINIAN DPS TRAFFIC SECTION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

International support for shark conservation floods Guam

»Thousands sign petition to protect shark law from federal intervention

Students from George Washington High School and Simon Sanchez High School are raising awareness of a federal attempt to overturn Guam's shark conservation law. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is trying to preempt local shark conservation laws in 11 states and territories because they think the laws conflict with federal laws mandating optimum yield.

The students started an online petition that calls on NOAA and President Barack Obama to cease attempts to undermine Guam's local conservation laws. They further ask NOAA and the president to create a shark sanctuary.

The students wrote a script and filmed a video Hafa Adai, Mr. President to promote the petition.

The petition started by students Maile Dolores, president of GWHS Marine Mania, and Makaelah Blas, member of SSHS Sharks MADE, has received over 2,000 signatures.

"There are currently only nine shark sanctuaries worldwide," explains Dolores in the video. "And we should be number 10."

The efforts of the students have attracted the attention of several international conservation organizations. The Oceanic Preservation Society, Shark Savers, WildAid, Blue Sphere Foundation, The Manta Trust, Shark Defenders, Humane Society International, and Shark Attack Survivors for Shark Conservation have promoted the protection of Guam's shark conservation law on social networks in recent days.

"The world stands shoulder to shoulder with the people of Guam," said Canadian film director Rob Stewart, who visited Guam in 2011 to advocate for the law's passage. "I hope the federal government realizes that sharks are important and that local people should have a say in how their local resources are managed."

Maile Dolores, president of George Washington High School's Marine Mania. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Guam's shark fin law and others like it are critical to addressing the damaging ecological impacts of the shark fin trade," said Peter Knights, executive director of WildAid. "Attempts to overturn or weaken this law, which has the strong support of Guam's citizens and lawmakers and the U.S. Congress, will only cause more harm to sharks by increasing trade."

"The young students in Guam have received international accolades for their passionate, tireless and inspirational advocacy for sharks," said Iris Ho, wildlife program manager at Humane Society International. "Their engagement in public policy and ability to generate positive changes for our oceans have made Guam a progressive leader in the global shark conservation. We hope NOAA will respect and support the pleas from these youngsters."

"People in the Pacific want to see sharks protected," said Mike Coots, a surf photographer and member of Shark Attack Survivors for Shark Conservation. "In Hawaii we are dealing with the same preemption issues and we stand united with our brothers and sisters in Guam to protect our sharks."

Stewart

"In 2011 the people of Guam took a decision to safeguard their natural heritage by passing tougher protective legislation for all sharks and ray within their territorial waters," said Guy Stevens of The Manta Trust. "Sharks and rays have never been more threatened globally—time is running out to protect these vulnerable and economically valuable species for the future benefit of all."

"The students on Guam continue to inspire, and they promise that the future of Guam is going to green and blue," said Blue Sphere Foundation featured artist Shawn Heinrichs. "Guam is ahead of the rest of the world in coming to realize that sharks aren't like other fish."

GWHS Marine Mania and SSHS Shark MADE are well known for their shark conservation advocacy. In 2011, they successfully lobbied the Guam Senate to ban the sale, trade, and possession of shark fin. Last year they called on Parties to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora to protect manta rays and five species of sharks.

About 100 million sharks are killed each year and as a result more than half of all sharks and shark-like species are estimated to be threatened or near threatened with extinction. In recent years, starting with Palau's creation of the world's first shark sanctuary in 2009, governments have implemented strong measures to protect sharks. Eleven US states and territories have banned the sale, trade, and possession of shark fin, while 9 countries and overseas territories have created shark sanctuaries, collectively protecting sharks in an area about 12.6 million square kilometers, which is about the size of the United States and Mexico combined. ***(Shark Defenders)***

UOG students to host forums on migrant crimes, medical marijuana

The University of Guam School of Business and Public Administration announced yesterday two public forums during the month of May. The forums are hosted by the Master of Public Administration PA 540 Administrative Law Class under the supervision of assistant professor Ronald Aguon.

The first forum, "Compact Impact: Migrant Crime Issues," will be held from 12pm to 3pm on Saturday, May 3, 2014, at the IT&E Lecture Hall, Room 131 in the Jesus & Eugenia Leon Guerrero SBPA Building. This forum will feature experts and community stakeholders to discuss issues and possible solutions to migrant crime issues on island.

The second forum on the subject of medical marijuana will be held on 12pm to 3pm on Saturday, May 10, 2014, at the IT&E Lecture Hall, Room 131 in the Jesus & Eugenia Leon Guerrero SBPA Building. This forum will also include medical experts and community stakeholders to discuss the medical marijuana legislation proposed by Sen. Tina Muna Barnes.

"As Public Administration students, we look at important issues in our community, and research and share ways to address these issues," said forum chair and Master of Public Administration student Anthony R. Quenga. "The topic of migrant crimes has been quite prevalent for the several months now, and as a class we're offering this platform to discuss the issues and bring a greater and more balanced view to the community."

The public is invited to both forums. For more information or any inquiries, contact Analyn Gatus Akigami via email: pa540.uogspring14.prom@gmail.com. ***(UOG)***

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

is inviting qualified U.S. Citizens to apply
for the following vacant positions

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Qualification Requirements: High School graduate or equivalent. One (1) year previous work-related skill, knowledge, or experience as a butcher is required. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including week-ends and holidays.

(1) Steward Supervisor: Supervises stewarding staff in accordance with the Resort's policies and procedures ensuring they are implemented consistently leading to guest satisfaction.
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NOTICE OF APPLICATION
April 23 , 2014

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. John Stephen Athens	04/02/2014 ASm-2014-X-015	Archaeological Research	Alamagan	Shoreline APC	Approved (04/09/2014)*
2. Coral Ocean Point Inc.	04/04/2014 SMS-85-X-69(2014 A)	Beach Maintenance (COP)	Coral Ocean Point Areas	Amendment	Approved (04/14/2014)*
3. DCCA	04/09/2014 SSm-2014-X-019	33rd Flame Tree Arts Festival	Civic Center	Shoreline APC	Approved (04/10/2014)*
4. Ironwood Blue Water Homes	04/16/2014 SMS-2014-X-020	80 Unit Multi-Family Housing	Middle Road, Garapan	Major Siting	Under Review

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Mankind looks to the heavens and finds a wonder

A team of astronomers announced last week that they had discovered an Earth-size planet in the so-called "Goldilocks zone"—not too cold, not too hot and thus potentially a home to life.

Maybe we are not alone, now that Earth has kin in the vastness of space, a planet named Kepler-186f, just 10 percent larger than our own and named for the NASA Kepler Space Telescope that was used to make the discovery.

But at least three bears complicate this Goldilocks tale: distance, difference and uncertainty. Kepler-186f is orbiting a star 500 light-years away, so the Welcome Wagon won't be calling. That star is also half the mass of our own, puts out one-third the energy and emits most of its light in infrared radiation. Last, the telescope can't directly see the planet so it is not certain whether it can sustain life.

But the thought of life elsewhere is awe-inspiring. This search has implications for astronomy and theology. Although our creeds look to heaven, they are Earth-centric in their message.

Or are they? Some think science has been an enemy of religion but others recognize that it constantly tells mankind about the wonders of God's creation—and Kepler-186f, whether home to life or not, is certainly that.

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Yemen remains front line against terror

A troubling video recently released by al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula depicts a large crowd of militants in Yemen—including al-Qaida's second in command, Nasir al-Wuhayshi—chanting and firing rifles into the air, ostensibly unprotected and unafraid.

"We must eliminate the cross," Wuhayshi said, adding, "the bearer of the cross is America."

Open demonstrations of force like this are "atypical," according to one U.S. intelligence official.

It's a rare, disconcerting reminder that al-Qaida remains virulent and strong—especially in Yemen. This is one of many reasons the American drone campaign in Yemen is necessary.

Although civilian deaths caused by drones have led to resistance in Yemen, the United States has explicit authorization from Yemeni President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi to continue the strikes.

Yemenis aren't sanguine about al-Qaida's pernicious influence in their country. An attack on the Defense Ministry in Sanaa on Dec. 5 left 56 people dead. The United States has seen success in Yemen, too, such as the assassination of U.S.-born cleric and al-Qaida commander Anwar al-Awlaki.

Al-Qaida has attempted two attacks on the U.S. since Sept. 11, 2001, both of which originated in Yemen.

This threat isn't going away, nor should the resistance to it.

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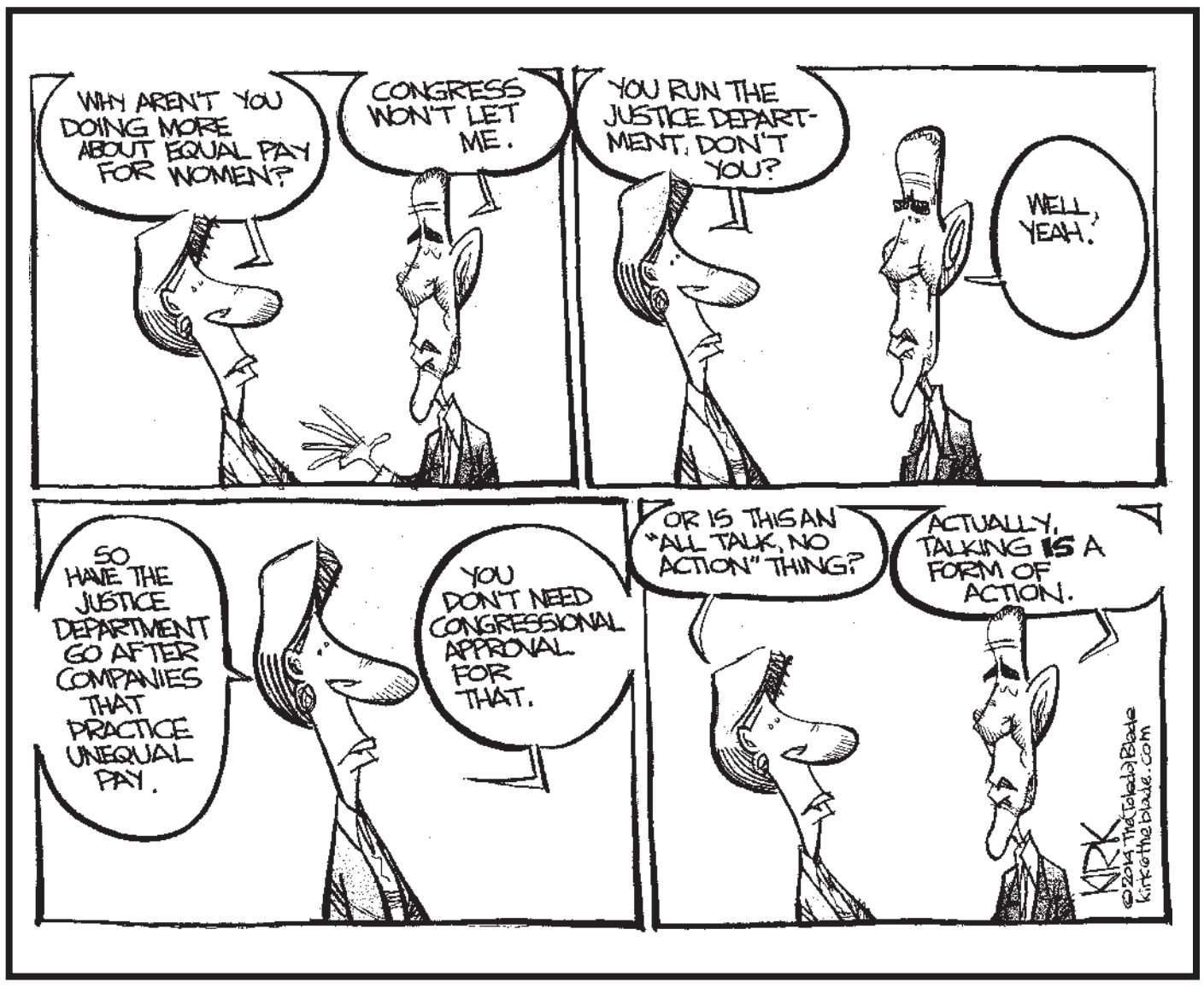

WHY AREN'T YOU DOING MORE ABOUT EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN?
CONGRESS WON'T LET ME.
YOU RUN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, DON'T YOU?
WELL, YEAH.
SO HAVE THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT GO AFTER COMPANIES THAT PRACTICE UNEQUAL PAY.
YOU DON'T NEED CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR THAT.
OR IS THIS AN "ALL TALK, NO ACTION" THING?
ACTUALLY, TALKING IS A FORM OF ACTION.
KIRK
©2014 The Toledo Blade
kirk@theblade.com

Jeju

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

When my sister finished nursing school, I recruited her to my Journey to the Center with the Ecumenical Institute and the Institute of Cultural Affairs in a human development project on Jeju island before it became a tourist destination. This was prior to Uncle Sam's anti-ballistic missile shield Naval Base at Gangjeong village in Jeju. She then went on to the U.S. to join the international staff and later, served with her dentist husband in Kenya until the Journey dissipated. They now practice their craft in Hawaii.

We've playfully designated SoKor as the 51st State of the Union since citizens do not need visas to enter the United States. Thirty-five percent of SoKor appropriated the traditions of Calvin, Luther, Wesley, and the Vatican II, so their selfhood no longer approximate that of their cousins in the Mangyongdae hoopla in the north as they are to the "Praise the Lord" crowd of Southern California!

The EI/ICA project in Jeju was quickly absorbed in President Park Chung-Hee's *Saemeul Undong* (New Community Movement) that swept the nation beginning 1970. Chastened by the local energy already on the ground, our international staff made a strategic retreat and left the tinkering on the socio-human psyche to the local's nationalist fervor.

I never made it to Jeju but I spent two months in 1972 in Suwon at an International Training Institute, before the farming town became a suburban bedroom for Seoul. I visited the capital city again in 1978, but the international airport moved from Kimpo to Incheon, so rejuvenated Seoul that allegedly looks like an extension of Los Angeles is only a picture in my readings.

Jeju is back in the news with the tragic sinking of a ferry with 325 students on a field trip from Seoul to celebrate spring. The sinking was rapid. It took an hour for the boat that sailed from Incheon to submerge after it reached the channel between the peninsula and the island. The chaperone school vice principal who survived felt too guilty that he committed suicide; the boat sinking will be like the *Titanic* when less than 40 percent of the passengers survived.

Two items in the news touched my insides. One was the picture of a teacher, one of the first three casualties identified, and the description of her well-received and pleasant relationship with her students. Being a pedagogue who insists on treating students as unique individuals rather than impersonal digits in a numbered roll call practiced in many classrooms, her reputation resonates.

The other is the boat trip itself. As a project director of an orientation for Peace Corps volunteers for Muslim Mindanao that I led in Zamboanga City in 1984, I took our whole training participants and staff for a weekend trip to Jolo, Sulu. This was when Muslims began to harass Gringos whose presence in the southwest region of Mindanao became more pronounced after USAID funds was shifted to the area. Menzi, the paper company, was in neighboring Basilan Island whose natives were earlier Christianized by missionaries so security was not a major concern. Manila PCV central office thought otherwise, and after the orientation, I was not asked to return to do another one, notwithstanding the volunteers' evaluation that the field trip was a highlight of their training.

The Jeju tragedy reminded me of what I was accused of, as being too indifferent to the possibility of tragedy that might have occurred during the overnight ferry trip going and returning. We did not have a tragedy so I was dismissive then, and knowing how U.S. federal agencies focus more on the "checks" than the "balances," I took the word of reprimand as par for the course.

The current Jeju incident's tragedy creeps into our existential consciousness with electronic speed. One girl texted her father "not to worry for she was wearing her life vest." When her father asked her to get to a window, she answered back that she "could not move as the hallway was full of people." She is still missing. The Jeju tragedy has since deteriorated into finger pointing; the captain and his crew are now the subject of criminal investigations. To check the state of the stables after the horses had fled into the field is the usual practice. I did not expect this one to be different.

The transcript of the exchange between the ship and the island's security office is now used to portray confusion and indecisiveness during a 30-minute of chaos. "If only …" is again the armchair quarterbacking's phrase.

In a planet increasingly getting democratized, with local folks raising their voices to be heard, clamoring for honesty and truth, central authority is harried to investigate aberrations and rhetoric of blame is the favored copout, from Kiev to Kabul, Brussels to Bangkok, Cairo to Rio, Nairobi to Tokyo and, yes, KL to Seoul.

The Jeju incident needs investigating but we can get to the truth without being stuck on trying to determine who is to blame. Let the tears flow but tragedies in life come with the territory. We are better off turning them into lessons for the morrow!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Slow loss of self-government

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Each time we shirk fiduciary responsibility on self-government the feds steps in and takes over. It fixes our mess on its own terms as we rant and rage with childish threats. But it's one less scaffold in our laughable claim for stronger local self-government.

Uncle Sam warned us about immigration. We took our merry time until one day he just took over. There's nothing we could do to retrieve it. It's gone! He simply slammed the door in our face. Again, it's one less pillar against effective home rule.

We were too busy toying with insignificant issues ignoring the dire need to resolve problems with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. He came in and took over via the federal district court. Now, CUC could hardly generate enough revenue to pay the court-ordered fine of $64 million. CUC is in bad financial shape it's difficult meeting this payment. It's one less pillar on self-government

Again, ignoring fiduciary duty we shoved aside strengthening the solvency of the NMI Retirement Fund. Uncle Sam came in—again through the federal district court—and took over the disposition of what's left of the Fund. The Fund needs about $50 million annually to pay its retirees. There isn't much left in its investments portfolio and it looks like its operations would close down by 2018.

Its lifespan may be extended by another four years if the NMI successfully floats a $200 million pension bond. It would come at the expense of our children who would shoulder paying it back for years. Gone is their economic freedom!

The best revenue projection is about $140 million for fiscal year 2015. You deduct the $50 million for the Fund and we're left with about $90 million for all other obligations. Troubling, isn't it? What then is our future under such dire fiscal impotency? We still must pay for CHC, PSS, DPS, and other obligations. Where do we cut?

When certainty crumbles in the face of the deepening hardship it forces the question: What about the future of our children? Strange that the lights are on but nobody's home!

Of selecting policymakers

Indeed, the multitude is struggling to live in the filthy swamp of misery that could easily be blamed on heedless policymakers on the hill. While wages and salaries have remained the same for over 10 years, the cost of living has gone up by 20 percent. At the same time, there's that deafening silence in obvious ignorance by the "Cash It Now" bunch incapable of seeing the obvious imbalance in the huge disparity in income versus cost of living. Hello?

For now, we sit and watch as exhausted entertainment spouts by the "has-been" whose woefully dismal track records don't offer much hope for brighter break of dawn. How then do we navigate the treacherous sea of hopelessness so we don't royally repeat failure? It's all in the palm of our hands. We can no longer afford being victims of ignorance and arrogance! Stand up!

Sense of hope

But there's hope in some of the incumbents and new prospects emplacing common decency in constructive and lasting policies. There's Rep. Richard Seman who has proven in floor debates that he stands his ground premised on reasoned analysis outgunning his colleagues on most issues.

There's Angel A. Demapan, a promising college-educated youngster who is also articulate. He's mature, well-read, and equipped with insightful perception of issues. Both folks could make a whale of a difference versus the current "didn't know what happened" bunch.

Of hopelessness

We can exile Kilili to a post midway across the Pacific. If he can't articulate the legal status of the CNMI that we're NOT a territory, he turns his job into nothing more than a "federal coordinator" of sort. We could include photo-ops on Obama-funded computer laptops he helped distribute here a year or so ago.

He's ignored the likelihood of the CNMI being mutilated by the 157 major regulations issued so far by the Obama administration. He's done nothing up that alley. I would return to this issue up ahead.

There's the $1,000 deductible forced upon employees with health premiums. It's money they must pay out of their own pockets when seeking healthcare at CHC. It's one heavy blow against health policyholders NMI-wide that Kilili hasn't discussed or simply prefers avoiding at all cost. Let's see some real coconuts here, Kilili! Challenger Andrew Salas has your job on his radar screen!

Fund marches to closure

Assuming that we successfully float a pension obligation bond to the tune of $200 million, it means the Fund's lifespan is extended to 2022. When the original sum is spent, would the CNMI have sufficient anchor investments to support the needs of the Fund of some $50 million per year? Is it fair that a good portion of revenue generated is earmarked for retirees alone?

Moreover, as more active members pull out of the program (as did Defined Benefit members) it means far less money to pay for the pension of retirees. Two things happen: 1). It may mean far less pension pay than the 25-percent cut since last year. 2) Health premiums increase that must be paid for by retirees themselves. It's a disruption that may force more members to pull out of their health insurance policy. Who covers their health bills? Would they eventually qualify for Medicaid?

None of the incumbents has buckled down to understanding with a sense of clarity that these issues are of a magnitude that requires knowledge-based expertise. Do I expect resolution from any of them whose competency is limited to dinky law enforcement and irrelevant stint as former police and custom officers? We're stuck in the barrel of bankruptcy, struggling to exit right from the sea of filthy red ink. There's a fat chance we could absolve bankruptcy at this stage.

Mystery of Ukraine's anti-Semitic pamphlet

By FRIDA GHITIS
The Miami Herald

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald. *Readers may send her email at fjghitis@gmail.com.*

The headline shouted, "All citizens of Jewish nationality!" The document ordered all Jews over the age of 16 to register or face deportation, calling them "hostile to the Orthodox Donetsk Republic."

The words stunned Jewish residents of the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk on the first night of Passover, when masked men carrying a Russian flag started handing out sheets with the chilling announcement to community members as they left the synagogue. "Evasion of registration," it warned, "will result in revocation of citizenship and ... confiscation of property."

Was the threat real? Was it a hoax? Was it an effort to intimidate Jews, to smear pro-Russian activists?

The fliers bore the seal of the "Donetsk People's Republic," an entity just announced by Moscow loyalists trying to break away from Ukraine's pro-Western government in Kiev. It accused the Jews of supporting the "Junta" in Kiev, and therefore being disloyal to the Donetsk separatists. It was signed Denis Pushilin, the leader of the Donetsk "Republic," but Pushilin denies he had anything to do with it.

Until now there is no sign that anyone intends to enforce the apparent decree. Still, it would be wrong to dismiss the incident and the flier as a meaningless forgery.

Both sides in the dispute between Ukraine and Russia have accused the other of anti-Semitism, and they have each called the other fascists. The truth is that anti-Semitism has a long history there.

It is no accident that the Jews are caught in the middle.

Jews have lived in Ukraine and Russia for more than a thousand years. After hundreds of generations, you would understand why they feel they live in their country and have a right to participate in civil life. But many in the community urged the young people to stay out of the demonstrations on either side, lest Jews become yet again the convenient scapegoats.

Many did not heed their elders' advice and joined the protests. Still, no one is blind to the reality. Whatever the provenance of the fliers, these are tense times for members of Donetsk's 17,000-strong Jewish community, and there is nervousness among Ukraine's 300,000 Jews. Jews have been an integral and important part of Russia and Ukraine, producing masterpieces of literature, science, philosophy and art. But also enduring brutality.

A local rabbi said the last time he saw a message like this one was in 1941, when Nazi armies occupied Donetsk. It is painful, he told a reporter, to be used by "cynical politicians" who see Jews "as an instrument of their political games." Secretary of State John Kerry called it "grotesque."

It has happened before. Many times.

This is the part of the world that gave us the word "Pogrom," the periodic riots against Jews that produced massacres, destruction of property and widespread fear. In the 17th century, Cossacks killed thousands of Jews. Pogroms never ended. When the Nazis came, they killed some 900,000 Jews in what is Ukraine today with the help of pockets of local supporters amid widespread anti-Semitism.

The Soviet era did not bring the end of anti-Semitism. Official purges accused the Jews of disloyalty and "cosmopolitanism."

Many Jews have sided with the new government in Kiev, joining the movement that seeks to bring an end to endemic corruption, and create a more Western-oriented Ukraine, with less meddling from Russia. Moscow has painted the new government in Kiev as dominated by anti-Semitic fascists.

It does contain a minority of nationalist extremists called the "Right Sector." Russian President Vladimir Putin has claimed Ukraine's Jewish community is threatened by an upsurge of anti-Semitism, another possible excuse for Russian intervention. Jewish leaders responded saying the rise of anti-Semitism is much more noticeable in Russia than in Ukraine.

The Jews of eastern Ukraine, where the population tends to be more pro-Russian, are caught in the middle.

Jews make up less than 1 percent of Ukraine's population, but they again find themselves forced into the center of inflammatory controversy. They don't know why the pamphlet suddenly appeared. Who were the masked men distributing them? Were they anti-Semites, seeking to bully the Jews in the tradition of Cossacks? Were they Kiev loyalists wanting to make the Russian backers look dangerous? Was it someone trying to stir up instability?

With each side charging the other is dominated by anti-Semitic fascists, the one source of comfort is that the charge is an accusation they both deny, rather than a boast and an official source of pride.

'Light it up blue'

By THOMAS M. THORNBURGH
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

What is autism? According to www.autismsocietyofamerica.org, "autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a 'spectrum disorder' that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees. There is no known single cause of autism."

Around the world today, countries are reporting a rise in the number of kids with autism. China, Britain, Australia, France, Japan, Serbia, and many other countries besides America are seeing this rise. It is considered by some accounts a worldwide epidemic.

One way that the world is bringing attention to autism is by lighting up places with blue lights on World Autism Day, April 2, every year and throughout April Autism Awareness Month in the U.S. and the CNMI. Places like the Empire State building in New York City, the Eiffel Tower in France, the Burj Al-Arab in Dubai to name a few. You can check out http://liub.autismspeaks.org/buildings for more. When people ask why "Light it up blue," a discussion can then ensue about autism. Just talking about autism brings awareness.

In the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control released prior to April 2014 new figures that state, "one out of every 68 kids in America has a form of autism spectrum disorder."

In the CNMI, NMPASI has put out blue bulbs at our Gualo Rai office and we have them shining in the day and throughout the night. When people ask, we give them a brochure and begin a discussion on autism.

Autism does not discriminate. It does not care about your economic situation, nor does it affect a specific race or color. We in the CNMI must learn more about autism so that we can effectively include our people in all aspects of our society. Remember that we are all people, and as such we must treat each other with dignity and respect. People with autism have dreams like everyone else. They may not be able to communicate them so effectively, but they are still nonetheless our friends and family and must be included if we are to rise above discrimination in our beautiful Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

For more on autism, please contact NMPASI at 235-7273, 7274, TTY at 7278, and fax at 7275 or online at www.nmpasi.org.

Thomas M. Thornburgh is a projects specialist of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°

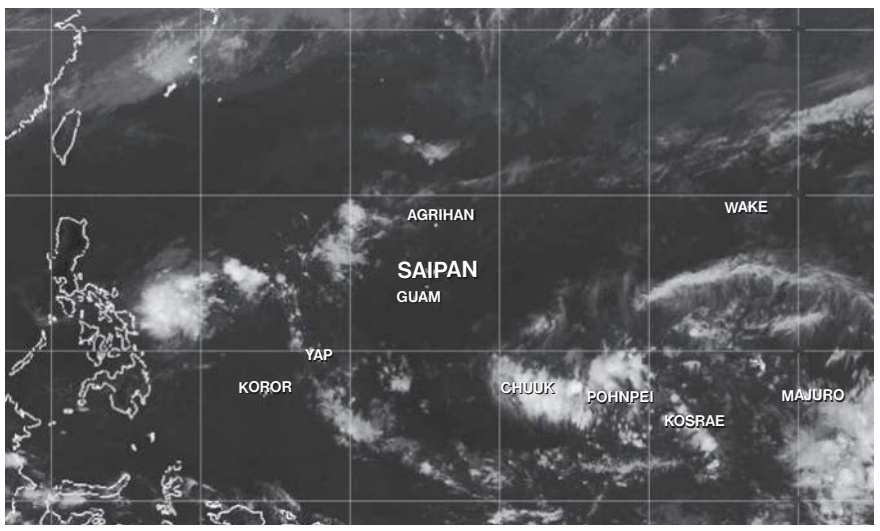
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲88	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲68	▼62
Beijing	Sunny	▲84	▼57
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼75
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼73
London	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼46
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲75	▼55
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼42
Miami	Sunny	▲85	▼70
New York	Windy	▲57	▼39
Osaka	Sunny	▲74	▼48
Paris	Showers	▲64	▼49
Pusan	Sunny	▲68	▼54
Rome	Sunny	▲76	▼54
Salem	Rain	▲53	▼49
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲78	▼51
Tokyo	Sunny	▲68	▼54
Washington, DC	Windy	▲62	▼40

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northeastward from a circulation centered northwest of Koror at 11N129E to 19N140E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found northwest of Koror west of a line from 16N132E to 14N136E to 11N130E and west of the Marianas within 100 miles of a line from 15N140E to 19N139E. A near-equatorial trough curves eastward from 4N144E through a weak circulation centered south of Chuuk at 1N151E to end south of Kosrae at EQ166E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present south of Yap within 100 miles of a line from 6N139E to 2N146E and near Chuuk and Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line from 9N151E to 6N155E to 10N159E. Low-level convergence east of the near-equatorial trough is generating scattered showers near Kosrae between 1N and 6N from 158E to 165E and northwest of Kwajalein within 150 miles of a line from 12N162E to 10N166E. A surface trough extends northwestward from 1N176E to near Majuro at 6N172E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen just south of Majuro and toward the date line south of a line from 6N170E to 8N176E to 8N180. A shear line extends southwestward from 25N175E to 23N163E to just north of the Mariana Islands near 22N145E to 21N134E. Low clouds and scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of this boundary.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:52 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:44 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
2:32 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
9:43 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:58 AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	5:56 AM	6:34 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:00 AM	12:57 PM
Thursday	1:50 AM	1:55 PM
Friday	2:37 AM	2:52 PM
Saturday	3:23 AM	3:48 PM
Sunday	4:09 AM	4:44 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	6:55pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	7:45pm	8:35pm	2, 6
UA5078	8:10pm	9:00pm	3

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	5:35pm	6:10pm	2, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	6:40pm	7:15pm	2, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11: 05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5038	5:35pm	7:15pm	2, 6 via Rota
UA5077	6:50pm	7:40pm	3

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	6:55pm	7:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	8:00pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:45am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5039	9:55am	6:25pm	7 via Guam
UA190/5038	9:55am	7:15pm	6 via Rota-Guam
UA190/5077	9:55am	7:40pm	3 via Guam
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA184/5038	10:25pm	7:15pm+1	1 via Rota-Guam
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/5038	11:30pm	7:15pm+1	5 via Rota-Guam

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Business

Thawing out: Warmer temperatures lift US economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Spring's thaw is reviving the economy, too.

A recent batch of government and business reports show a U.S. economy emerging from winter's deep freeze.

Economists had expected growth to accelerate in 2014 after two years of slow and steady improvement. But an unusually bitter winter sent factories, hiring and consumer spending into hibernation.

Now, as temperatures rise, the economy is regaining momentum. Factories are busier. Consumers are spending more. Banks are making more loans to businesses. Companies have bigger plans to invest in plants and equipment. And the improvement appears to be widespread across the country.

"The weather really played havoc. There were ice storms in Georgia. That is not something you see every day," said Michael Dolega, senior economist at TD Economics. "Now, as Americans have dug themselves out and everything has melted, you're going to get a bounce back."

An index based on several leading economic indicators-including employment, consumer confidence, stocks and interest rates—shot up for the third straight month in March, the Conference Board, a business research association, said on Monday. The index's 0.8 percent gain to 100.9 "suggests accelerated growth for the remainder of the spring and the summer," said Ken Goldstein, a Conference Board economist.

Many economists expect the economy to grow at an annual rate of 3 percent or more from April through June, up from an estimated 1.3 percent the first three months of the year. The positive economic news has sparked a rally on Wall Street the past week. The Standard & Poor's 500 index is up 0.9 percent for the year and is near its record close of 1,890 set April 2.

Helping to drive the growth have been recent increases in manufacturing after tumbling in January. Factory production climbed 0.5 percent in March, after a 1.4 percent surge the previous month, the Federal Reserve reported last week. This suggests that manufacturers anticipate that demand from businesses and consumers will increase.

After the winter slowdown, recovering motor vehicle sales have boosted revenue for companies such as Batesville Tool & Die in Batesville, Ind.

AP

In this April 15, 2014 photo, Anthony Zingale wires blender motors at the Vitamix manufacturing facility in Strongsville, Ohio.

Bank of Hawaii Q1 financial results

HONOLULU, HI—Bank of Hawaii Corp. yesterday reported diluted earnings per share of $0.87 for the first quarter of 2014, down from $0.88 in the previous quarter and up from $0.81 in the same quarter last year. Net income for the first quarter of 2014 was $38.6 million, a decrease of $0.5 million compared with net income of $39.1 million in the fourth quarter of 2013, and up $2.6 million from net income of $36.0 million in the first quarter of 2013.

Loan and lease balances increased to $6.2 billion at March 31, 2014, up 1.9 percent from December 31, 2013 and 7.4 percent compared with March 31, 2013. Deposit growth remained strong during the quarter, increasing 1.1 percent from December 31, 2013 and 7.0 percent from March 31, 2013. The net interest margin increased to 2.87 percent during the first quarter of 2014 compared with 2.85 percent in the previous quarter and 2.82 percent in the same quarter last year.

"Bank of Hawaii Corporation had a good start in 2014 with solid performance in the first quarter," said Peter S. Ho, Chairman, President, and CEO. "Our balance sheet remains strong and we maintained our disciplined approach to risk and capital management. Our loan and deposit balances continued to grow during the quarter and we are continuing to see the benefits of our expense initiatives."

The return on average assets for the first quarter of 2014 was 1.12 percent, unchanged from the previous quarter and up from 1.08 percent in the same quarter last year. The return on average equity for the first quarter of 2014 was 15.15 percent compared with 15.36 percent in the fourth quarter of 2013 and 14.10 percent in the first quarter of 2013. The efficiency ratio during the first quarter of 2014 was 60.54 percent compared with 59.99 percent in the previous quarter and 61.90 percent in the same quarter last year.

Financial highlights

Net interest income, on a taxable-equivalent basis, for the first quarter of 2014 was $96.1 million, up $1.3 million from net interest income of $94.8 million in the fourth quarter of 2013, and up $5.1 million from net interest income of $91.0 million in the first quarter of 2013.

The net interest margin was 2.87 percent for the first quarter of 2014, an increase of 2 basis points compared with the net interest margin of 2.85 percent in the fourth quarter of 2013, and a 5 basis point increase from 2.82 percent in the first quarter of 2013.

Noninterest income was $44.8 million for the first quarter of 2014, a decrease of $0.5 million compared with noninterest income of $45.3 million in the fourth quarter of 2013, and a decrease of $3.0 million compared with noninterest income of $47.8 million in the first quarter of 2013. Noninterest income included a gain of $2.0 million resulting from the sale of 22,000 Visa Class B shares (9,253 Class A equivalents) during the first quarter of 2014. The Company also contributed 5,500 Visa Class B shares to the Bank of Hawaii Foundation. The contribution had no impact on noninterest expense; however, the contribution did favorably impact the effective tax rate for the first quarter of 2014. As of March 31, 2014, the Company has 482,114 Visa Class B shares remaining (202,777 Class A equivalents). Noninterest income in the first quarter of 2014 included mortgage banking revenue of $2.0 compared with mortgage banking revenue of $2.8 million in the previous quarter and $6.4 million in the same quarter last year.

Noninterest expense was $83.5 million in the first quarter of 2014, up $1.1 million from noninterest expense of $82.4 million in the fourth quarter of 2013, and down $0.8 million from noninterest expense of $84.4 million in the same quarter last year. Noninterest expense in the first quarter of 2014 included seasonal payroll-related expenses resulting from annual payments from the Company's incentive compensation plans and higher payroll taxes, and a $0.7 million increase in operating losses.

The effective tax rate for the first quarter of 2014 was 29.13 percent compared with 28.96 percent in the previous quarter and 30.74 percent during the same quarter last year. ***(BOH)***

AT&T explores expansion of super-fast Internet

NEW YORK (AP)—AT&T plans a major expansion of super-fast Internet services to cover as many as 100 municipalities in 25 metropolitan areas.

The service, called GigaPower, has a 1 gigabit per second speed that is about 100 times what U.S. consumers typically get with broadband. That means faster video downloads and the ability for more devices to connect to the network without congestion.

AT&T currently has such speeds in Austin, Texas, and has committed to offer the service in Dallas. The company is also in advanced talks to bring GigaPower to two additional markets, Raleigh-Durham and Winston-Salem, N.C.

A rival offering from Google Inc., known as Google Fiber, is available in Kansas City and is coming soon to Austin and Provo, Utah. Smaller companies and public utilities offer or plan such speeds in a handful of other markets throughout the U.S.

AT&T Inc. said Monday that the specific number of markets beyond its initial four will depend on discussions with local officials and assessments of potential demand. The company said it may start building some of the new networks by the end of the year.

None of the new markets are in the Northeast because AT&T doesn't have landline operations there. Verizon serves much of that area and has been offering its own fiber-optics service, FiOS, though its top speed is at half of what AT&T is planning.

Verizon said that although it hasn't seen widespread demand for a 1 gigabit service yet, the rival offerings are indicative of growing demand for super-fast Internet.

Report: Sandy's fallout affecting small business

LONG BEACH, N.Y. (AP)—When suburban New York delicatessen owner P.J. Whelan heard the findings of a Federal Reserve Bank of New York poll released Monday on Superstorm Sandy's effect on small businesses, he began nodding in agreement.

"They got those numbers right," the Long Beach, N.Y., businessman said of the results that found a third of small businesses in tri-state Sandy disaster areas reported financial losses a year after the devastating storm struck.

The findings were from an online poll conducted from Oct. 10 to Dec. 31, 2013.

It looked at businesses in New York, New Jersey and coastal Connecticut with fewer than 500 employees in sectors including manufacturing, retail, construction, real estate, leisure and hospitality.

Of those sustaining economic losses, 22 percent reported they totaled more than $100,000.

Sixty-one percent reported operating at a profit or breaking even.

In Long Beach, an oceanfront community just east of New York City, city officials estimate that 10 percent of its 33,000 residents have yet to return to their homes. In some neighborhoods only a few blocks from the ocean, the whir of chain saws and the thud of hammers are ubiquitous as construction trucks and crews clog the city's streets.

The Federal Reserve Bank found that about a third of the companies polled had no insurance and only a small number owned flood or business disruption insurance. More than half said they covered storm-related expenses out of their own pockets.

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
16,449.25	1,871.89	4,121.55
+40.71	+7.04	+26.03
+0.25%	+0.38%	0.64%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

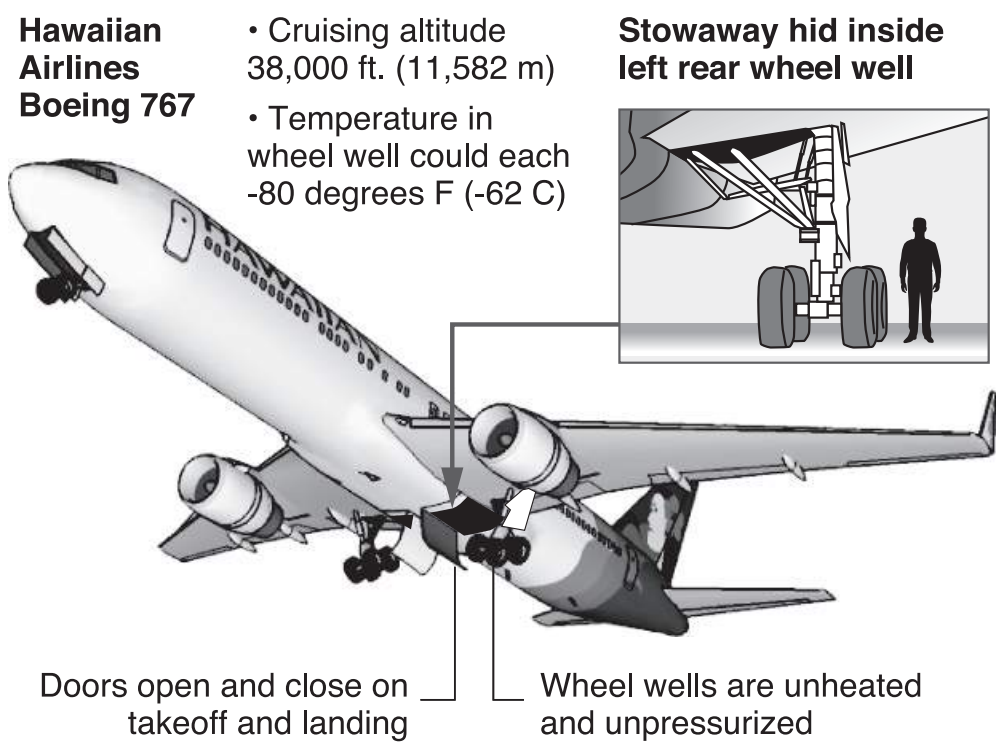
Australian Dollar	1.0692	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7539	Philippine Peso	44.52
British Pound	0.5955	Indian Rupee	60.665	Singapore Dollar	1.2545
Canadian Dollar	1.102	Indonesian Rupiah	11534	South Korean Won	1038.6
Chinese Yuan	6.2368	Japanese Yen	102.535	Swiss Franc	0.885
Euro	0.7249	Malaysian Ringgit	3.2615	Taiwan Dollar	30.276
		New Zealand Dollar	1.1649	Thailand Baht	32.195

Nation

Stowaway teen forces review of airport security

Stowaway to Hawaii

A 16-year-old boy from Santa Clara, Calif., stowed away in the wheel well of a jet that flew from San Jose, Calif., to the Hawaiian island of Maui and survived oxygen deprivation and extreme cold.


Hawaiian Airlines Boeing 767
• Cruising altitude 38,000 ft. (11,582 m)
• Temperature in wheel well could each -80 degrees F (-62 C)
Stowaway hid inside left rear wheel well
Doors open and close on takeoff and landing
Wheel wells are unheated and unpressurized

Source: FBI, Trimble 3D Warehouse, Los Angeles Times

Graphic: Pai, Bay Area News Group

© 2014 MCT

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—A 15-year-old boy found his way onto an airport's tarmac and climbed into a jetliner's wheel well, then flew for five freezing hours to Hawaii—a misadventure that forced authorities to take a hard look at the security system that protects the nation's airline fleet.

The boy, who lives in Santa Clara, Calif., hopped out of the left rear wheel well of a Boeing 767 on the Maui airport tarmac Sunday, according to the FBI. Authorities found the high school student wandering the airport grounds with no identification. He was questioned by the FBI and taken by ambulance to a hospital, where he was found to be unharmed.

FBI spokesman Tom Simon in Honolulu said the teen climbed into the left rear wheel well of the first plane he saw in San Jose.

"He got very lucky that he got to go to Maui but he was not targeting Maui as a destination," Simon said.

He passed out in the air and didn't regain consciousness until an hour after the plane landed in Hawaii, Simon said. When he came to, he climbed out of the wheel well and was immediately seen by airport personnel who escorted him inside where he was interviewed by the FBI, Simon said.

It was not immediately clear how the boy stayed alive in the unpressurized space, where temperatures at cruising altitude can fall well below zero and the air is too thin for humans to stay conscious. An FAA study of stowaways found that some survive by going into a hibernation-like state.

On Monday, authorities tried to determine how the boy slipped through multiple layers of security, including wide-ranging video surveillance, German shepherds and Segway-riding police officers.

San Jose International Airport spokeswoman Rosemary Barnes says airport employees monitor security video feeds from throughout the 1,050-acre airport around the clock. However, she said no one noticed images of an unidentified person walking on the airport ramp and approaching Hawaiian Airlines Flight 45 in the dark until security agents reviewed the footage after the plane had landed in Hawaii and the boy had been found.

The airport, in the heart of Silicon Valley, is surrounded by fences, although some sections do not have barbed wire and could easily be scaled.

The boy found his way onto the tarmac during the night, "under the cover of darkness," Barnes said.

Hours later, surveillance video at Kahului Airport showed the boy getting out of the wheel well after landing, according to a statement from Hawaii's Department of Transportation. The video was not released because of the ongoing investigation.

Hawaiian Airlines spokeswoman Alison Croyle said airline personnel noticed the boy on the ramp after the flight arrived and immediately notified airport security.

"Our primary concern now is for the well-being of the boy, who is exceptionally lucky to have survived," Croyle said.

Isaac Yeffet, a former head of security for the Israeli airline El Al who now runs his own firm, Yeffet Security Consultants, said the breach shows that U.S. airport security still has weaknesses, despite billions of dollars invested.

"Shame on us for doing such a terrible job," he said. "Perimeters are not well protected. We see it again and again."

A congressman who serves on the Homeland Security committee wondered how the teen could have sneaked onto the airfield unnoticed.

"I have long been concerned about security at our airport perimeters. (hash) Stowaway teen demonstrates vulnerabilities that need to be addressed," tweeted Rep. Eric Swalwell, a Democrat who represents the San Francisco Bay Area's eastern cities and suburbs.

Unlike checkpoint security inside the airport, which is overseen by the Transportation Security Administration, airport perimeters are policed by local authorities, as well as federal law enforcement.

Airport police were working with the FBI and the TSA to review security.

The boy was released to child-protective services in Hawaii and not charged with a crime, Simon said.

The city of San Jose, which owns and operates the California airport, is not planning on pursuing criminal charges against the teen based on the current information available.

The FAA says 105 stowaways have sneaked aboard 94 flights worldwide since 1947, and about 1 out of 4 survived. But agency studies say the actual numbers are probably higher, as some survivors may have escaped unnoticed, and bodies could fall into the ocean undetected.

How jet stowaways can survive cold, lack of oxygen

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Despite the subzero temperatures and lack of oxygen, people can survive even a long journey in the wheel well of a jetliner. The latest example is a teenager who, according to authorities, stowed away on a 5 1/2-hour flight from San Jose, Calif., to Hawaii. While the number of known stowaway attempts is few, people have survived with surprising frequency.

HOW DANGEROUS ARE THE CONDITIONS?

Very. At 38,000 feet—the cruising altitude of the Hawaiian Airlines flight that the FBI says the 15-year-old took Sunday—the outside air temperature is about minus 85 degrees. The air is so thin that a person will pass out because the brain is starved of oxygen.

The plane's own machinery can aid a stowaway's survival, at least initially. Warmth radiating from the wheels, which heat up on the runway during takeoff, and from hydraulic fluid lines can moderate the temperature. But those effects dissipate, and at cruising altitude the temperature in the wheel well would be about minus 30 degrees, estimated John Hansman, a professor of aeronautics and astronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Unlike areas of the cargo hold that are pressurized so that pets can breathe, air in the wheel wells is essentially the same as outside the plane. An FBI spokesman in Hawaii said the boy told authorities he did not remember the flight.

And then there is the huge risk when the wheels are lowered for landing. This opens the equivalent of a trap door, turning a cramped but relatively sheltered space into one from which it would be easy to fall thousands of feet to the ground or water below.

Wheel well survivors typically find space in a recess area next to where the gear retracts, according to an FAA review of cases. The boy hopped into a Boeing 767, and it was not immediately clear how big the area is on that jet. Boeing representatives declined to comment, saying they did not want to encourage any copycat attempts.

SO HOW CAN THE HUMAN BODY DO IT?

By entering a state akin to hibernation. Breathing, heart rate and brain activity can continue—but at a much slower-than-normal rate. Being younger helps the chances of survival, though surgeons may try to recreate this body state during surgery on older people.

Several doctors likened the body's experience in a wheel well on a long flight to what happens when someone falls under the ice of a frozen pond. They may have no pulse when they are pulled out, but could be revived.

"When it comes to hypothermia, all bets are off," said Dr. Jay Lemery, a professor at the University of Colorado specializing in emergency medicine in the wilderness. A body shut down by extreme cold should be "presumed alive, until they are warm and dead."

HOW FREQUENTLY DO PEOPLE SURVIVE?

Worldwide, there have been 105 known people who stowed away since 1947, according to data kept by the Federal Aviation Administration. Counting the California teen, 25 made it alive, for a survival rate of about 1 in 4. The FAA notes that the rate may be lower, because people could have stowed away and fallen out of the wheel well without anyone knowing.

Prior to this case, there were two known instances when someone stowed away on a flight that took off and landed within the United States. One was in 2010, in which a teenager died on a flight between Charlotte, N.C., and Boston. The other was in 1972. There are other instances in which someone flew to the United States from another country.

Affordable Care Act only chips away at a core goal

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Swan Lockett had high hopes that President Barack Obama's health overhaul would lead her family to an affordable insurance plan, but that hasn't happened.

Instead, because lawmakers in her state refused to expand Medicaid, the 46-year-old mother of four from Texas uses home remedies or pays $75 to see a doctor when she has an asthma attack.

"If I don't have the money, I just let it go on its own," Lockett said.

The federal health care overhaul has provided coverage for millions of Americans, but it has only chipped away at one of its core goals: to sharply reduce the number of people without insurance.

President Barack Obama announced last week that 8 million people have signed up for coverage through new insurance exchanges, but barriers persist blocking tens of millions of people around the nation from accessing health care. Questions of eligibility, immigrant coverage and the response from employers and state legislatures mean considerable work lies ahead for health care advocates and officials—but cost remains a particularly high hurdle for low income people who are most likely to be uninsured.

"We think that most people will get insurance once it's affordable to them," said Cheryl Fish-Parcham, of Families USA, a health advocacy group.

There are myriad ways people fall into coverage gaps. Some are eligible for discounted policies but say they still can't afford their share of exchange plans. Others earn too much for subsidies. Immigrants living in the country illegally can't obtain care under the law. Dozens of states haven't expanded Medicaid. And some employers have reduced staff hours to avoid being mandated to provide care.

"I'm a nurse, but my employer doesn't offer health insurance," said Gwen Eliezer, 32, who lives north of Asheville, N.C.

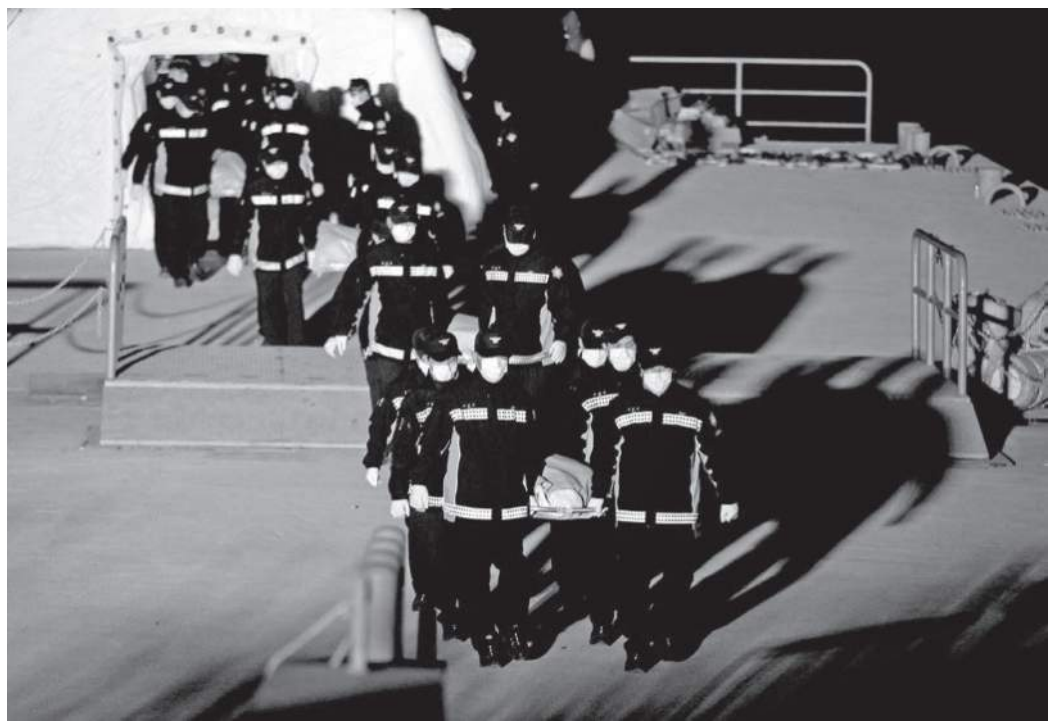
Eliezer works an average of 29 hours a week at a nursing home, so her employer isn't required to cover her. She qualifies for a subsidy but says the plan she found with a $200 monthly premium and $6,500 deductible is too expensive. So while her 6-year-old son qualified for Medicaid during open enrollment, she goes without. She pays cash to see a doctor for gastrointestinal pain but says she can't afford to get the problem diagnosed.

"If I went through an emergency room, I can claim acute pain," she said. "But then I'd end up with a lot of debt to a hospital."

Before the launch of the Affordable Care Act, about 48 million people, or 15 percent of the population, went without health insurance, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Asia

Death count in ferry sinking tops 100



AP
Bodies of a passengers aboard the *Sewol* ferry, which sank in the water off the southern coast, are carried by rescue workers upon their arrival at a port in Jindo, South Korea, Monday, April 21, 2014.

JINDO, South Korea (AP)—One by one, coast guard officers carried the newly arrived bodies covered in white sheets from a boat to a tent on the dock of this island, the first step in identifying a sharply rising number of corpses from a South Korean ferry that sank nearly a week ago.

Dozens of police officers in neon green jackets formed a cordon around the dock as the bodies arrived Tuesday. Since divers found a way over the weekend to enter the submerged ferry, the death count has shot up. Officials said Tuesday that confirmed fatalities had reached 104, with nearly 200 people still missing.

If a body lacks identification, details such as height, hair length and clothing are posted on a white signboard for families waiting on Jindo island for news.

The bodies are then driven in ambulances to two tents: one for men and boys, the other for women and girls. Families listen quietly outside as an official briefs them, then line up and file in. Only relatives are allowed inside.

For a brief moment there is silence. Then the anguished cries, the wailing, the howling. They have not known for nearly a week whether they should grieve or not, and now they sound like they're being torn apart.

"How do I live without you? How will your mother live without you?" a woman cries out.

She is with a woman who emerges from a tent crying and falls into a chair where relatives try to comfort her. One stands above her and cradles her head in her hands, stroking her face.

"Bring back my daughter!" the woman cries, calling out her child's name in agony. A man rushes over, lifts her on his back and carries her away.

This heartbreak still awaits many families of those still missing from the submerged ferry *Sewol*, or at least those whose relatives' bodies are ultimately recovered. Families who once dreamed of miraculous rescues now simply hope their loved ones' remains are recovered soon, before the ocean does much more damage.

"At first, I was just very sad, but now it's like an endless wait," said Woo Dong-suk, a construction worker and uncle of one of the students. "It's been too long already. The bodies must be decayed. The parents' only wish right now is to find the bodies before they are badly decomposed."

About 250 of the more than 300 missing or dead are students from a single high school, in Ansan near Seoul, who were on their way to the southern tourist island of Jeju.

Bodies are being identified visually, but family members have been providing DNA samples in case decomposition makes that impossible.

The families, and South Koreans more broadly, have at times responded with fury. The captain initially told passengers to stay in their rooms and waited more than half an hour to issue an evacuation order as the *Sewol* sank. By then, the ship had tilted so much it is believed that many passengers were trapped inside.

At a Cabinet briefing Monday, President Park Geun-hye said, "What the captain and part of the crew did is unfathomable from the viewpoint of common sense. Unforgivable, murderous behavior." The comments were posted online by the presidential Blue House.

The captain, Lee Joon-seok, and two crew members have been arrested on suspicion of negligence and abandoning people in need, and prosecutors said Monday that four other crew members have been detained. On Monday night, prosecutors requested a court to issue a warrant to formally arrest these four people, a prosecution office said in a release late Monday.

A transcript of ship-to-shore communications released Sunday revealed a ship that was crippled with indecision. A crew member asked repeatedly whether passengers would be rescued after abandoning ship even as the ferry tilted so sharply that it became impossible to escape.

Lee, 68, has said he waited to issue an evacuation order because the current was strong, the water was cold and passengers could have drifted away before help arrived. But maritime experts said he could have ordered passengers to the deck—where they would have had a greater chance of survival—without telling them to abandon ship.

Emergency task force spokesman Koh Myung-seok said bodies have mostly been found on the third and fourth floor of the ferries, where many passengers seemed to have gathered. Many students were also housed in cabins on the fourth floor, near the stern of the ship, Koh said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Asia-Pacific navies sign communication agreement

QINGDAO, China (AP)—Naval officials from the U.S. and nearly two dozen Asia-Pacific nations have adopted an agreement aimed at heading off accidents and miscommunication at sea. The Code For Unplanned Encounters at Sea was approved unanimously Tuesday at the Western Pacific Naval Symposium held in the eastern Chinese port city of Qingdao. The agreement outlines how warships should communicate and maneuver when they come into contact in heavily trafficked sea lanes surrounding China, Japan and Southeast Asia. Tensions have been rising in the region over competing territorial claims, especially over a group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea that are controlled by Japan but claimed by China. U.S. Navy officials say that although Tuesday's agreement is not legally binding, it indicates China's willingness to engage with its neighbors.

Sherpas consider boycott after Everest avalanche

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Buddhist monks cremated the remains of Sherpa guides who were buried in the deadliest avalanche to hit Mount Everest, a disaster that has prompted calls for a climbing boycott by Nepal's ethnic Sherpa community. Nepal's government said late Monday it would consider the Sherpa's demands for more insurance money, more financial aid for the families of the victims, the formation of a relief fund and regulations that would ensure climbers' rights. A committee formed with guides, rescuers and others will make its recommendations Tuesday, said Maddhu Sudan Burlakoti, head of the mountaineering department. A total Sherpa boycott could critically disrupt the Everest climbing season, which is key to the livelihood of thousands of Nepali guides and porters. Everest climbers have long relied on Sherpas for everything from hauling gear to cooking food to high-altitude guiding.

Manila mayor off to Hong Kong to apologize

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The mayor of Manila flew to Hong Kong Tuesday to apologize to the families of eight Hong Kong tourists who were killed in a mishandled hostage taking in 2010 which soured relations between the Philippines and Hong Kong. Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada said other officials, including a top aide of President Benigno Aquino III and the national police chief, are joining him on the trip. The delegation hopes to meet Hong Kong's chief executive Leung Chun-ying and other Hong Kong officials. It was not immediately clear if the Philippine national officials will also offer an apology. Speaking to ABS-CBN News Channel while before his flight, Estrada said the trip was a joint effort of the national government and Manila, with Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras and Philippine National Police chief Alan Purisima representing Aquino and the national government.

Seabed hunt for Malaysia jet stretches beyond week

SYDNEY (AP)—An air search for the missing Malaysia Airlines jet was suspended for a day due to stormy weather on Tuesday as the painstakingly slow sonar scanning of the targeted patch of seabed continued.

Up to 10 planes were to scour the ocean surface for debris on Tuesday over an area covering 49,500 square kilometers (19,000 square miles) centered 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) northwest of the Australian west coast city of Perth, the search coordination center said in a statement.

But the center later said the planes would be grounded in Perth due to poor weather related to a tropical cyclone developing off the Australian coast to the north.

"It has been determined that the current weather conditions are resulting in heavy seas and poor visibility, and would make any air search activities ineffective and potentially hazardous," the center said in a statement.

Ten ships would continue the search on Tuesday.

A robotic submarine was on Tuesday finishing its ninth 16-hour mission scanning the silt-covered seafloor since the search for wreckage shifted beneath the waves on April 14.

The center said the U.S. Navy's Bluefin 21 had so far covered about two-thirds of the 310-square-kilometer (120-square-mile) seabed search zone, creating a three-dimensional sonar map of any debris. Nothing of interest had been found.

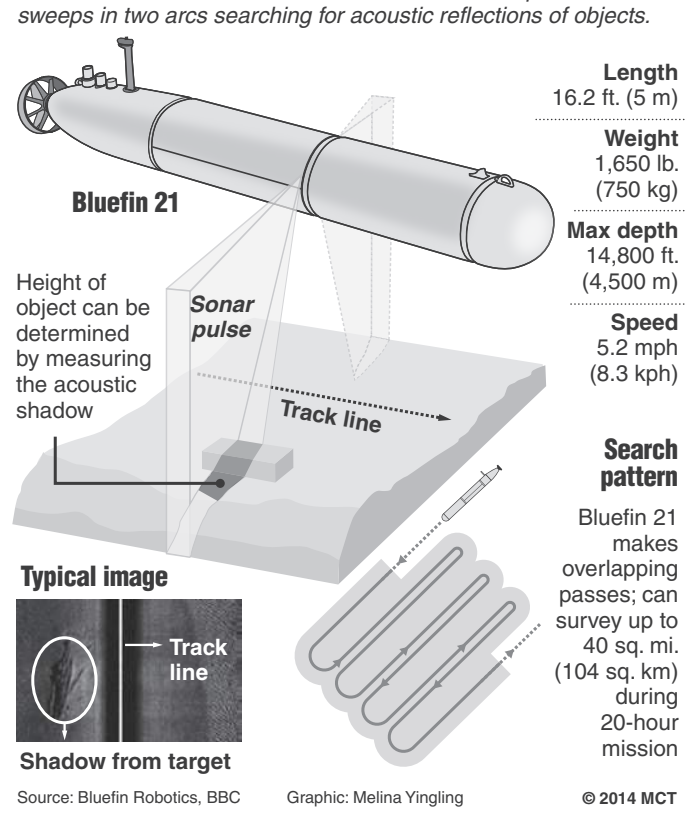
The 4.5-kilometer (2.8-mile) deep search area is a circle 20 kilometers (12 miles) wide where searchers calculated a suspected black box beacon heard on April 8 is probably located. The Boeing 777's beacons were only designed to transmit signals for 30 days after a crash and their batteries are now assumed dead.

The search coordination center said the sonar scan of the seafloor in that area was expected to be completed sometime this week.

Malaysian Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein has said that even if no debris was recovered, the scope of the search may be broadened or other assets may be used.

Radar and satellite data show the jet carrying 239 passengers and crew veered far off course on March 8 for unknown reasons during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. Analysis indicates it would have run out of fuel in the remote section of ocean where the search has been focused. Not one piece of debris has been recovered since the massive multinational hunt began.

There have been numerous leads, but all have turned out to be false. The most promising development came when four underwater signals were detected April 5 and 8. The sounds were consistent with pings that would have been emanating from the plane's flight data and cockpit recorders' beacons before their batteries died.


Underwater robot
The Bluefin 21 robotic mini submarine emits sonar pulses as it sweeps in two arcs searching for acoustic reflections of objects.
Bluefin 21
Length
16.2 ft. (5 m)
Weight
1,650 lb. (750 kg)
Max depth
14,800 ft. (4,500 m)
Speed
5.2 mph (8.3 kph)
Height of object can be determined by measuring the acoustic shadow
Sonar pulse
Track line
Search pattern
Bluefin 21 makes overlapping passes; can survey up to 40 sq. mi. (104 sq. km) during 20-hour mission
Typical image
Track line
Shadow from target
Source: Bluefin Robotics, BBC
Graphic: Melina Yingling
© 2014 MCT

World

US: Russia has 'days, not weeks' to follow accord

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Russia has "days, not weeks" to abide by an international accord aimed at stemming the crisis in Ukraine, the top U.S. diplomat in Kiev warned Monday as Vice President Joe Biden launched a high-profile show of support for the pro-Western Ukrainian government. Russia in turn accused authorities in Kiev of flagrantly violating the pact and declared their actions would not stand.

Biden, the highest-ranking American official to visit Ukraine during its conflict with Russia, planned to meet with government officials in the capital of Kiev on Tuesday. The vice president also planned to announce new technical support to help the fledgling government with energy and economic reforms.

Biden's trip comes days after the U.S., Russia, Ukraine and Europe signed an agreement in Geneva calling for Moscow to use its influence to get pro-Russian forces to leave the numerous government buildings they now occupy in cites throughout eastern Ukraine. The U.S. asserted on Monday that publicly available photographs from Twitter and other media show that some of the troops in eastern Ukraine are Russian special forces, and the U.S. said the photos support its case that Moscow is using its military to stir unrest in Ukraine.

There was no way to immediately verify the photographs, which were either taken from the Internet or given to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe last week by Ukraine diplomats.

In Moscow, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov rejected charges that Moscow was behind the troubles in eastern Ukraine and failing to live up to the Geneva agreement.

"Before putting forth ultimatums to us, demanding fulfillment of something within two-three days or otherwise be threatened with sanctions, we would urgently call on our American partners to fully recognize responsibility for those whom they brought to power and whom they are trying to shield, closing their eyes to the outrages created by this regime and by the fighters on whom this regime leans," Lavrov told a news conference.

Words and actions by Ukrainian leaders are "absolutely unacceptable," he declared.

The U.S. has warned that it will quickly order new economic sanctions on Russian officials and entities if Moscow doesn't follow through on the provisions in last week's accord. Gregory Pyatt, the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, said it was still too early to tell whether the deal would succeed, but he added, "The ball is really in Moscow's court in terms of whether they're going to take this diplomatic off-ramp."

"There needs to be concrete results," Pyatt told reporters in Kiev. He said the U.S. would make a decision on whether the agreement is working in "days, not weeks."

AP

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden , left, is greeted upon arrival at Borispol airport outside Kiev, Ukraine, Monday April 21, 2014.

John Paul's legacy stained by sex abuse scandal

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope John Paul II is rightly credited with having helped bring down communism, of inspiring a new generation of Catholics with a globe-trotting papacy and of explaining church teaching on a range of hot-button issues as Christianity entered its third millennium.

But the sexual abuse scandal that festered under his watch remains a stain on his legacy.

John Paul and his top advisers failed to grasp the severity of the abuse problem until very late in his 26-year papacy, even though U.S. bishops had been petitioning the Holy See since the late-1980s for a faster way to defrock pedophile priests.

The experience of John Paul in Poland under communist and Nazi rule, where innocent priests were often discredited by trumped-up accusations, is believed to have influenced his general defensiveness of the clergy. The exodus of clergy after the turbulent 1960s similarly made him want to hold onto the priests he still had.

Pope Francis has inherited John Paul's most notorious failure on the sex abuse front—the Legion of Christ order, which John Paul and his top advisers held up as a model. Francis, who will canonize John Paul on Sunday, must decide whether to sign off on the Vatican's three-year reform project, imposed after the Legion admitted that its late founder sexually abused his seminarians and fathered three children.

Yet the Legion's 2009 admission about the Rev. Marcial Maciel's double life was by no means news to the Vatican.

Documents from the archives of the Vatican's then-Sacred Congregation for Religious show how a succession of papacies—including that of John XXIII, also to be canonized Sunday—simply turned a blind eye to credible reports that Maciel was a con artist, drug addict, pedophile and religious fraud.

By 1948, seven years after Maciel founded the order, the Holy See had documents from Vatican-appointed envoys and bishops in Mexico and Spain questioning the legitimacy of Maciel's ordination (by his uncle, after Maciel was expelled by a series of seminaries), noting the questionable legal foundation of his order and flagging his "totalitarian" behavior and spiritual violations of his young seminarians.

Parents: 234 girls kidnapped from Nigeria school

CHIBOK, Nigeria (AP)—Some 234 girls are missing from the northeast Nigerian school attacked last week by Islamic extremists, significantly more than the 85 reported by education officials, parents told the state governor Monday.

The higher figure came out a week after the kidnappings when the Borno state governor insisted a military escort take him to the town. Parents told the governor that officials would not listen to them when they drew up their list of names of missing children and the total reached 234.

The discrepancy in the figures could not immediately be resolved.

Security officials had warned Gov. Kashim Shettima that it was too dangerous for him to drive to Chibok, 130 kilometers (80 miles) from Maiduguri, the Borno state capital and birthplace of the Boko Haram terrorist network blamed for the abductions.

Borno state education commission Musa Inuwo Kubo and the principal of the Chibok Government Girls Secondary School had initially said that 129 science students were at the school to write a physics exam when the abductors struck, after midnight on April 14. Twenty-eight pupils escaped from their captors between Tuesday and Friday. Then another 16 were found to be day scholars who had returned to their homes in Chibok before the attack. That left 85 missing students, according to school officials.

This latest confusion comes after the military had reported last week that all but eight of those abducted had been rescued—but then retracted the claim the following day.

Security sources have said they are in "hot pursuit" of the abductors, but so far they have not rescued any of the girls and young women, aged between 16 and 18.

Parents and other town residents have joined the search for the students in the Sambisa Forest which borders Chibok town and is a known hideout for the militants.

The kidnappings are believed to have been carried out by Nigeria's Islamic extremist rebels, known as Boko Haram. Boko Haram—the nickname means "Western education is sinful"—is violently campaigning to establish an Islamic Shariah state in Nigeria, whose 170 million people are about half Muslim and half Christian. Boko Haram has been abducting some girls and young women in attacks on schools, villages and towns but last week's mass kidnapping is unprecedented.

WORLD BRIEFS

Syria elections set for June 3 amid civil war

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Syria called a presidential election for June 3, aiming to give President Bashar Assad a veneer of electoral legitimacy in the midst of a civil war that has killed more than 150,000 people and driven a third of the population from their homes. The opposition and the United States denounced the vote as a farce, and a U.N. spokesman said it will "hamper the prospects for a political solution." But Assad's government appears determined to hold the election as a way of exploiting its recent military gains. The announcement Monday by Parliament Speaker Jihad Laham raises questions about how the government intends to hold any kind of credible vote within the deeply divided country, where large areas lie outside government control and where hundreds of thousands of people live in territory that is either contested, held by rebels or blockaded by pro-government forces.

Yemen says strikes on al-Qaida base kill 55

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemeni forces, reportedly backed by U.S. drone strikes, hit al-Qaida militants for a second straight day Monday in what Yemen officials said was an assault on a major base of the terror group hidden in the remote southern mountains. The government said 55 militants were killed so far. The sprawling base was a rare instance of a permanent infrastructure set up by al-Qaida's branch in the country, Yemeni security officials said. Built over the past months, it includes a training ground, storehouses for weapons and food and vehicles used by the group to launch attacks, they said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release details to the press. The assault appeared to be a significant escalation in the U.S. and Yemeni campaign against al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, the terror group's powerful branch in the southern Arabian nation. The United States has been striking al-Qaida positions in the country heavily with drone strikes the past two years, trying to cripple the group after it was driven out of several southern cities it took over in 2011.

Focus

Why are Americans obsessed with missing plane?

AP

In this March 22, 2014 file photo, flight officer Rayan Gharazeddine on board a Royal Australian Air Force AP-3C Orion, searches for the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 in southern Indian Ocean, Australia.

By MARGIE MASON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PERTH, Australia (AP)—From the disappearances of aviator Amelia Earhart to labor union leader Jimmy Hoffa, there's just something about a good mystery that Americans find too tantalizing to resist. Perhaps that's why the saga of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 has continued to rivet the country long after people elsewhere have moved on.

From the beginning, the story has bubbled with enough drama to rival a good Hollywood whodunit. And even though it unfolded on the other side of the world with only three Americans on board, many were sucked in anyway.

"This story has many ingredients of compelling drama, particularly early on: lives at stake, mystery unsolved, a race against time, human emotion," Tom Rosenstiel, executive director of the American Press Institute, said in an email.

But why did interest remain so high in the U.S. when the story lost steam elsewhere? It dropped from most Australian front pages and websites weeks ago, despite the search being coordinated off its western coast. CNN International, CNN's overseas network, tapered its coverage when other big news broke, such as the crisis in Ukraine and the Oscar Pistorius trial in South Africa. But CNN in the U.S. continued its heavy focus on the plane.

Even in China, where two-thirds of the passengers were from, reports never ran nonstop on TV and the clamor on social media also died down.

But Americans yearned for more.

Many found it impossible to believe that a modern Boeing 777 carrying 239 people could just vanish without a trace in an age where an iPhone can be tracked just about anywhere.

Part of the obsession may also revolve around the country's gotta-know-now mentality and its social media addiction that gets fed 24/7 by the latest breaking news, raw footage or photos going viral on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. Since the plane disappeared, it has consistently been one of the top five most-read stories on The Associated Press' mobile app.

And so Americans tuned in to watch the latest developments. And when there were no new developments, they stayed glued to their smartphones because the suspense of not knowing—or possibly missing something new—somehow spiked when nothing was going on. From oil slicks to pings from dying black boxes, each new lead provided a salacious morsel that drove viewers to wonder: Will this be it?

"I find myself drawn into watching or reading about it because it has taken on seemingly mythic worldwide importance," Paul Mones, an attorney from Portland, Oregon, wrote in an email. "In this modern world we simply refuse to accept that something so concrete can get so out of our physical reach and understanding. ... People just refuse to concede that the cause of the disaster will likely forever remain unknown."

After six weeks of breathless reporting, not one shred of hard evidence has been found from the jetliner. An unmanned underwater submarine is now using sonar to comb the ocean floor at a depth exceeding 4.5 kilometers (2.8 miles) off the west coast of Australia. It is desperately trying to spot something—anything—that resembles wreckage in an area where signals believed to be coming from the plane's dying black boxes were heard.

According to the latest survey by the Pew Research Center conducted April 3-6, the missing plane remained the top news story in the U.S., with 33 percent of people saying they followed it over a deadly shooting at Fort Hood Army base, developments related to Ukraine and President Obama's health care overhaul. That's down from 39 percent in the previous March questionnaire, when nearly half of those asked said they thought the hunt for Flight 370 was being given the right amount of coverage.

CNN covered the drama heavily for weeks, once breaking into one of its programs to report that objects recovered from the sea could be trash—which is exactly what they proved to be. They featured tons of go-to footage from a flight simulator and a nonstop spool of speculation from talking heads. Everyone had a theory, with some sounding more like a Twilight Zone rerun than a newscast: Could a black hole or even something supernatural be behind the aircraft's March 8 disappearance?

CNN declined to comment for this story despite repeated requests from the AP.

AP

In this March 31, 2014 file photo, a shadow of a Royal New Zealand Air Force P-3 Orion aircraft is seen on low cloud cover while it searches for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 in the southern Indian Ocean.

Last week, Miami Herald columnist Leonard Pitts, Jr., begged CNN to scale it back.

"Enough, already," he wrote. "Give us a break from the missing plane. ... Put your hands up and step away from the story."

Even though its coverage was mocked by "The Daily Show" and spoofed by "Saturday Night Live," Americans kept watching, and the 24-hour news network's ratings kept soaring.

CNN reported itself that its all-important 25- to 54-year-old viewer demographic more than doubled after its plane reporting began.

A month and a half into the massive search that has involved scores of countries scouring thousands upon thousands of ocean miles, the plane was still among the top three stories Sunday on Google news. The only new development was that the robotic submarine was expected to finish its sweep of the seabed in a week.

A combination of popular TV shows and a history peppered with real-life detective dramas, from who shot President John F. Kennedy to the identity of Watergate source "Deep Throat," may have been factors that tempted Americans to latch onto it.

"It's almost like all the seasons of `Lost' was the promotional period for this story," said Robert Thompson, a pop culture expert at Syracuse University.

"We have always kind of put a lot of our popular national narrative into these mysteries and conspiracies and all of the rest of it," he added. "And this is a pretty powerful one."

Campus Life

What companies want from college grads

By HADLEY MALCOLM
USA TODAY

Employers expect to hire more college graduates from the class of 2014 than from the class of 2013, shows an update to the National Association of Colleges and Employers job outlook survey out Wednesday.

Employers plan to hire 8.6 percent more graduates this year than from the class of 2013. Though NACE says that rate of increase is about the same as in past years.

"Even though it's positive, we consider it somewhat flat," says Andrea Koncz, employment information officer for NACE. "It's not going gangbusters or anything."

So what's the recipe for job success? Bachelor's degrees are most in demand. And business, engineering and accounting majors—you are a hot commodity. Nearly 70 percent of the employers who responded to the survey are hiring business majors. That's the most of any major.

Petroleum engineering majors have the highest average starting salary, according to another survey from NACE out earlier this month. The average starting salary for petroleum engineering majors from the class of 2014 is $95,300, up 1.9 percent from the class of 2013's average starting salary.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Employers expect to hire more college graduates from the class of 2014 than from the class of 2013.

Health sciences and education students—sorry. You're at the bottom of the list. Fewer than 5 percent of employers want to hire you. Keep in mind though: The data reflect the types of companies that responded to the survey. The majority of respondents represent industries including finance, insurance and real estate, Koncz says.

But the average starting salary for health sciences gained the most ground this year. Students with that degree are expected to make an average of $51,541, up 3.7 percent from $49,713 last year.

Fall recruiting for the class of 2015 looks even more promising. About 43 percent of companies said they plan to hire more grads during fall 2014 recruiting than last year. During fall 2013 recruiting, fewer than a third of employers said they planned to hire more graduates. Still, Koncz says, "It's a bit early to see what they're actually going to do."

Aldan of NMIS wins first place in original oratory

Candice C. Aldan, an 8th grader at the Northern Marianas International School, won first place in Original Oratory at the National Junior Forensic League 2014 Regional Competition held at Hopwood Junior High School last April 12, 2014.

Aldan will be part of the CNMI Team that will compete in the nationals, to be held in Overland Park, Kansas, on June 17-20, 2014.

"I couldn't be more proud to represent my school," she said. "I have incredible support from my parents, Criselda and Candido Aldan; my coach, Ms. Kathy Barja; and the NMIS administration, staff and faculty."

This was the first time that NMIS joined the competition and they are so proud that they had someone to represent their school in the nationals.

Other NMIS students who did well at this year's regional competition were Deirdre Rosete, third place in Dramatic Interpretation; Myka Villegas and Kristine Fajardo (duo semifinalist); Curtis Mostales and Ylac Caracut (storytelling semifinalist); Xiao Qian (impromptu semifinalist); and Maverick Irang and Dondi Ferrer, for qualifying in the regionals. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Candice C. Aldan with her coach, Kathy Barja.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Candice Aldan poses with her father, Candido Aldan, at the awarding ceremony held at Hopwood Junior High School.

UOG board renews Underwood

During a regular meeting on April 17, the University of Guam Board of Regents renewed UOG president Dr. Robert A. Underwood's contract for two more years with the option to extend for an additional year. The option would be exercised mutually by both Underwood and the board as part of a transition period to new leadership.

Since becoming UOG's 10th president in 2008, Underwood has led a university that has kept tuition rates steady for five years, increased enrollment to the highest it has been in nearly 15 years, reached record highs in revenues ($106 million in 2012), established the Center for Island Sustainability, and maintained national accreditation for its academic programs, among other accomplishments.

"I am honored by the board's confidence in me to continue leading this great university," said Underwood. "Each day I am inspired by the passion and commitment of our faculty and staff and by the achievements of our students and alumni throughout the region and around the world."

Underwood

Leon Guerrero elected board chair; Fong elected vice chair

Leon Guerrero

Also during the meeting, the Board of Regents elected William Leon Guerrero as chairperson. Leon Guerrero has been a member of the board since 2007, and prior to his election as chairperson, he served as vice chairperson. He is the executive vice president and chief operating officer of Bank of Guam.

Other elected officers include: Regent Marcos Fong as vice chairperson, Regent Antoinette Sanford as treasurer and Regent Mariflor Herrero as representative to the Regent Nominating Council. Student regent-elect Vinni Orsini will replace outgoing student regent Anthony Quenga in May.

Appreciation was extended to outgoing chair, Dr. W. Chris Perez, whose term ends in July. The Regent Nominating Council is currently soliciting applicants from the community. ***(UOG)***

Life & Style

Mexico bids goodbye to 'Gabo,' famed adopted son

By E. EDUARDO CASTILLO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Long into the night, the line of mourners stretched for nearly a mile, waiting their turn to file into Mexico City's majestic Palace of Fine Arts and bid farewell to Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the Colombian Nobel laureate considered one of the greatest Spanish-language authors of all time.

Garcia Marquez, who died Thursday at age 87, was eulogized in a brief ceremony Monday evening in the dramatic art deco lobby by the presidents of both Mexico and Colombia, two countries linked by the writer through his birth, life, heritage and career. Though he was born in Colombia, Garcia Marquez lived in Mexico for decades and wrote some of his best-known works here, including "One Hundred Years of Solitude."

"We come as admirers and friends of Gabo from all corners of the planet," Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said, using the nickname by which the writer was known throughout Latin America. "He will live on in his books and writings. But more than anything he will live forever in the hopes of humanity."

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto said the death was "a great loss not only for literature but for humanity. Various generations ... found answers to the questions of life in his stories and tales."

At the end, attendees tossed up a flurry of yellow paper butterflies, one of Garcia Marquez's most famous literary images from "Solitude" and his favorite color.

Thousands passed by the simple urn holding his ashes during a three-hour tribute open to the public Monday afternoon. When the procession was closed for the ceremony, a crowd remained outside demanding to pay respects to their beloved Gabo. After the eulogies, the building was reopened and the procession resumed.

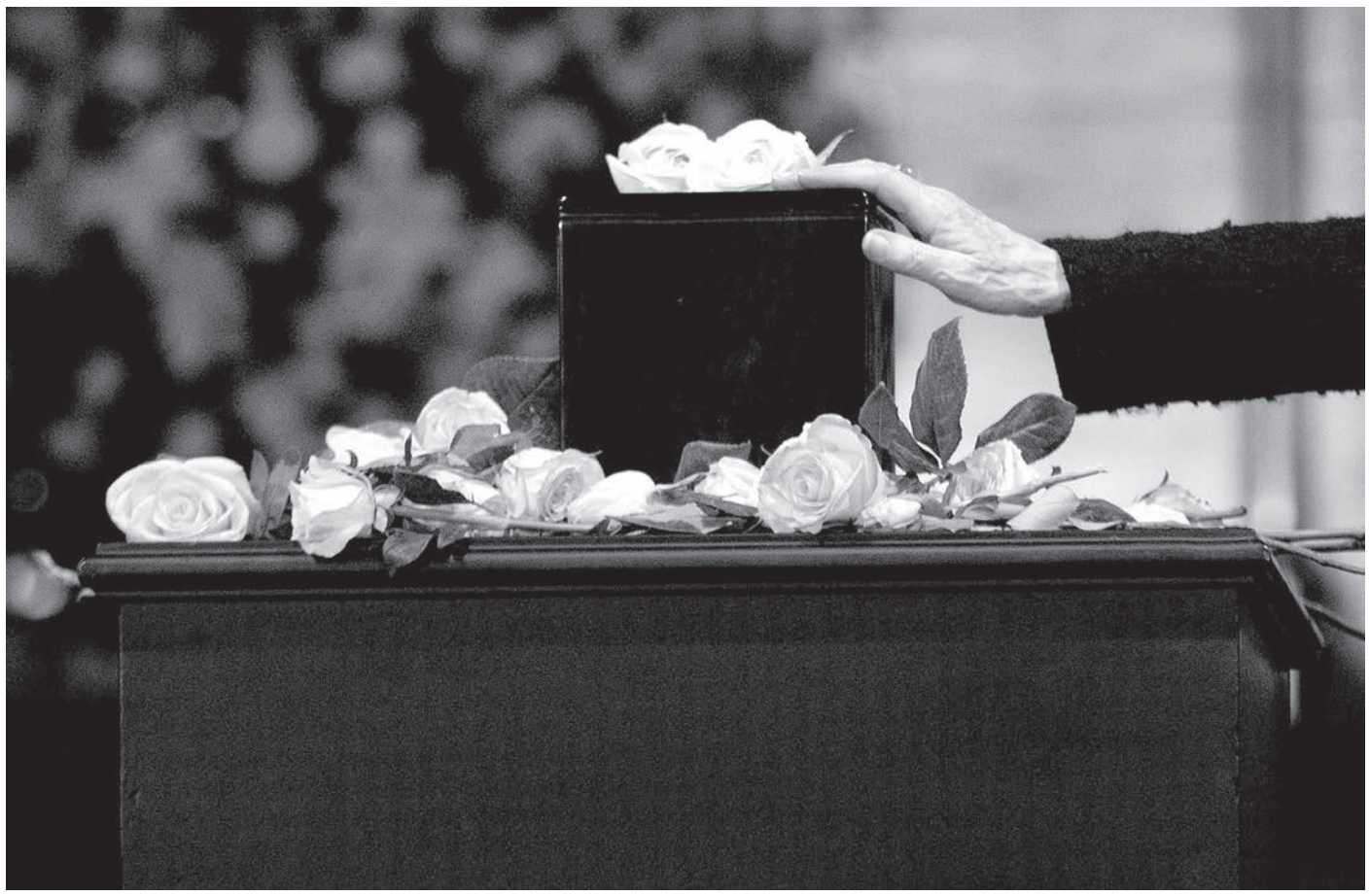
"Gabo was a watershed in my life," said Nelly Hernandez, a 52-year-old teacher holding a pair of yellow paper butterflies. "He taught me to relish life through literature."

Before the formal ceremony, applause thundered for several minutes after Garcia Marquez's ashes were placed on a black pedestal by his widow, Mercedes Barcha, and his two sons, Gonzalo and Rodrigo. Dignitaries, friends and artists took turns as honor guards.

A quartet played some of Garcia Marquez's favorite classical composers, including Hungary's Bela Bartok and Italy's Giovanni Bottesini. A musical trio passed in front of the urn to play upbeat, accordion-laced vallenato, the music native to Colombia's Caribbean coast where Garcia Marquez grew up.

He once said "One Hundred Years of Solitude" was a vallenato of 400 pages.

"This is my chance to accompany Garcia Marquez," said Lorena Moreno, 40, originally from Barranquilla, Colombia, where the author spent part of his early years. A resident of Mexico for seven years, she said that whenever she is homesick for her country, she rereads Garcia Marquez's work.



AP

Silvia Lemus, widow of the Mexican author Carlos Fuentes, touches the urn containing Colombian Nobel Literature laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez's ashes during an homage to the beloved author at the Palace of Fine Arts in Mexico City, Monday, April 21, 2014.

Lawsuit accuses entertainment figures of sex abuse

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—A man who has accused "X-Men" director Bryan Singer of sexually abusing him when he was a teen sued three more entertainment industry figures Monday, claiming they also molested him.

The allegations in the latest lawsuits filed by Michael Egan III are substantially similar to his legal action against Singer. That lawsuit accuses the director of abusing him between the ages of 15 and 17 in Los Angeles and Hawaii.

Monday's lawsuits were filed in federal court in Hawaii against former Fox television executive Garth Ancier, theater producer Gary Wayne Goddard, and David A. Neuman, a former television executive with Current TV and Disney.

Alan Grodin, an attorney for Goddard, said the executive was out of the country and had not seen the lawsuit.

"Based on what we have heard, the allegations are without merit," Grodin wrote in a statement. "Once we have seen the complaint we will respond appropriately."

Ancier did not respond to phone and email messages seeking comment.

Neuman could not be reached for comment. Phone numbers associated with him have been disconnected, and he did not immediately respond to a message sent through the social networking site LinkedIn.

The lawsuits were filed in Hawaii under a law that temporarily suspends the statute of limitations in civil sex abuse cases.

Singer's attorney, Marty Singer, has denied the director abused Egan, calling the allegations defamatory. He has said the director was not in Hawaii when Egan says he was abused and was instead working on production for the first "X-Men" film.

None of the men has been criminally charged, and the statute of limitations for any such charges has passed.

Ancier was the founding programmer at the Fox network, later going on to create programming for The WB, and was a top executive at NBC Entertainment.

Egan, 31, appeared at a news conference Monday alongside his mother, who tearfully described her efforts to report alleged abuses to the FBI in 1999 and 2000.

AP

Plaintiff Michael Egan III, right, 31, and his mother Bonnie Mound take questions from the media during a news conference in Beverly Hills, Calif., Monday, April 21, 2014.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Gone are the days we used to share, but in our hearts you are always there.
The gates of memory will never close, we miss you more than anyone knows.
With tender love and deep regret, we who love you will never forget.

In Loving Memory of

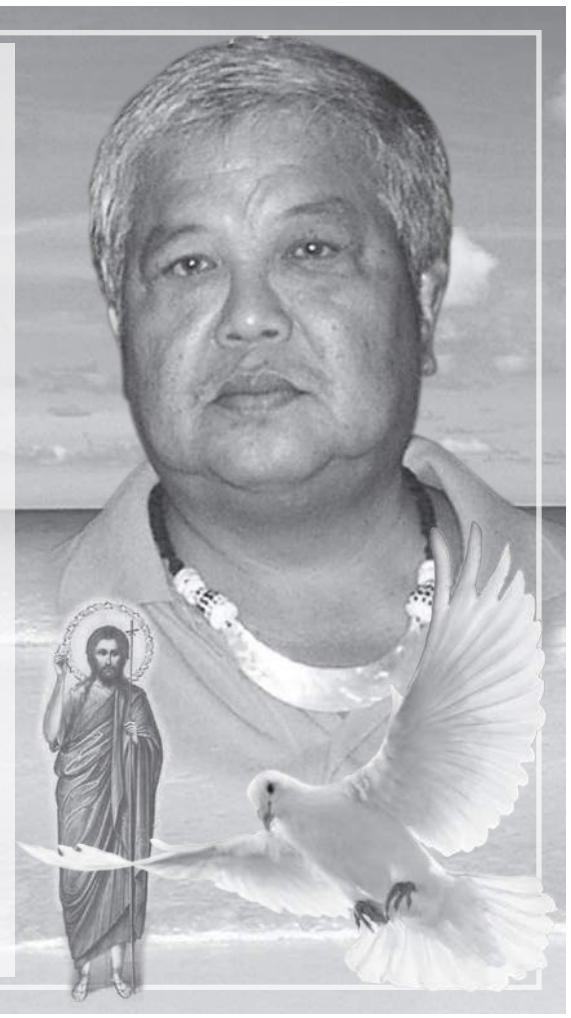
†Juan Santos Dela Cruz

Please join us in prayers as we remember our beloved on the First Anniversary of his new life in Heaven. Mass of intention will be offered daily at 6 a.m. at the Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning Thursday, April 24th through May 2nd.

Nightly rosary will be said at 7 p.m. at the family residence in Susupe.

With humble and sincere appreciation for your presence, your thoughts and your prayers,

Lydia M. Dela Cruz and Children



Chris Brown's trial on assault charge delayed

This Jan. 8, 2014 file photo shows singer Chris Brown arriving at the District of Columbia Superior Court in Washington. AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—Singer Chris Brown's trial on an assault charge in Washington, which had been set for Monday, has been postponed until Wednesday.

A judge delayed it while attorneys work out issues over testimony from Brown's bodyguard, who was convicted of assault in a separate trial.

Both Brown and bodyguard Christopher Hollosy were arrested in October after a man accused them of punching him outside a Washington hotel. Hollosy told police that he punched the man after he tried to get on Brown's tour bus. But the man says Brown and later Hollosy punched him after he tried to get in a photo Brown was taking with two women.

Judge Patricia Wynn set Hollosy's sentencing for June 25.

Brown's attorneys now want Hollosy to testify at the singer's trial. Hollosy would be expected to say that he, not Brown, punched 20-year-old Parker Adams outside the W Hotel. But Hollosy's lawyer Bernard Grimm told a judge he plans to appeal his client's conviction.

Unless prosecutors grant Hollosy immunity, testifying in Brown's case could affect his appeal. Prosecutors haven't said if they will grant Hollosy immunity, and waiting until his appeal is over could take a year, prosecutors have said previously.

Brown's attorney Mark Geragos said outside court that he wants to move forward.

"I don't think that there's any doubt Chris Brown is not guilty," he said.

But Geragos also said Hollosy's testimony is crucial to Brown's case. He said prosecutors have a "duty to fairly treat a defendant and to extend immunity in certain situations."

"It's going to be our argument that this is one of those situations," he said.

Geragos said he expects Brown's trial, when it does start, to last no longer than two days.

'Housewives' star says she may not return to show

ATLANTA (AP)—Kenya Moore says she's seriously considering leaving "The Real Housewives of Atlanta" after her televised brawl with co-star Porsha Williams.

"We all agree that we don't condone violence," Moore said in an interview on Monday. "We've become angry with each other, we've threatened each other and gone to the edge. But at the end of the day, we know there's a line. If there are no consequences, then where does it end?"

Williams surrendered last week to authorities and was charged with a misdemeanor charge of battery for the fight, which was televised as part of the Bravo show's reunion special on Sunday.

Williams and Moore have had friction during the entire season, so it wasn't surprising that the two began to argue and trade ugly accusations during the reunion special. But then things got physical. Both women stood up and Williams grabbed Moore's hair, pulling her down and dragging her across the floor. On the show, Williams said she "blacked out" but was regretful about the fight.

"I think Porsha was in a position to provoke me," Moore said on Monday.

Moore said Williams should have been better prepared for the reunion show, which typically brings up past feuds and confrontations between cast members from previous episodes. The show also stars NeNe Leakes, Kandi Burruss, Phaedra Parks and Cynthia Bailey.

AP

This June 30, 2013 file photo shows TV personality Kenya Moore at the BET Awards in Los Angeles.

"If anyone is capable of blacking out and not taking responsibility for their actions, they should not be in this type of environment," she said. "They do not need a stage such as this."

Moore, an actress and former Miss USA, said the decision is up to the producers on whether Williams returns to the show. Bravo has not commented on the incident and has not addressed who will be back for the next season.

'Wicked' composer, others fight sheet music piracy

NEW YORK (AP)—By now, some young musical theater fans have received an email from Stephen Schwartz asking them to stop illegally downloading sheet music from any of his shows. Or anyone's show, for that matter.

The award-winning composer of the Broadway smash, "Wicked," wants people to know that it's stealing.

"You wouldn't walk into a music store and walk out with a piece of music under your arm. So why would it be acceptable to do it online," Schwartz told the Associated Press Monday at an anti-piracy awareness event hosted by the Dramatists Guild.

He added, "I just went to the first of the Web sites that I'm going to be emailing, and I typed my name in to see how many individual pieces of sheet music that were available for free of mine—over 11,000.

"I didn't know I had that many pieces of music," said an astonished Schwartz.

The event proved to be a summit of musical theater composers that included Jason Robert Brown, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Amanda Green, Stephen Flaherty, Marc Shaiman, Scott Wittman, and others. Many of them sat in a room across the hall from the organization's headquarters hunched over computers, writing letters to offenders as a projection screen showed the organization's Twitter activity.

The idea of reaching out to sheet music pirates began a few years ago, when composer and Dramatists Guild member Georgia Stitt found out during a talk with students that her husband's sheet music was being illegally downloaded. Stitt is married to "Bridges of Madison County" composer Jason Robert Brown.

Brown took to a letter-writing campaign to ask illegal downloaders to stop.

"About three or four years ago, when Georgia had told me about it and I got on the Internet, I saw a whole list, about three or four hundred people pirating my sheet music that day, and I said `I'm just going to write them,'" he said.

While that doesn't entirely solve the problem, Brown feels getting an email from a Broadway composer carries enormous clout.

"If Stephen Sondheim had written to me when I was 20 years old, when I was 16 years old, I would have had an aneurism," Brown said. "It's more of a reason to take somebody seriously. You're not going to listen to your mother about it, or your teachers, but maybe you'll listen to someone that you respect when they say to you, `This hurts me.'"

Miranda, composer of the Tony-winning, "In the Heights," feels most of the people illegally downloading music are unaware of the impact on the artist.

"Musical theater artists, we thrive on productions and we thrive on sheet music. That's our bread and butter," he said. "We're not ranked iTunes artists. We create for live productions, so we suffer more than most in this era where you can download anything."

Dramatist Guild committee chair Craig Carnelia is leading the fight in shutting down these illegal Web sites, as well as bringing awareness to the problem.

Casino owner planning 'Rock in Rio' site in Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A group including casino company MGM Resorts announced plans Monday to build a 33-acre open-air music venue on the Las Vegas Strip to host a four-day Rock in Rio USA festival beginning in May 2015.

MGM Resorts International officials said the "City of Rock" development to be built between the Circus Circus resort and Sahara Avenue would serve as home to what they expect will be one of the largest concert festival events in the world.

Rock in Rio began in 1985 in Brazil, where 600,000 tickets for the event last September sold out in four hours, according to organizers. Headliners included Justin Timberlake, Beyonce, Metallica and Bruce Springsteen. The organization also produces festivals in Portugal and Spain.

Rock in Rio founder Roberto Medina said he was excited to partner for the first Rock in Rio USA event in the heart of Las Vegas with casino giant MGM Resorts, multiple Las Vegas show producer Cirque du Soleil and developer Ron Burkle of the California-based Yucaipa Companies LLC.

Bill Hornbuckle, president of MGM Resorts International, noted dramatic changes in the entertainment industry in recent years and said he believed the four-day music festival in Las Vegas would draw more than 300,000 people.

The layout is expected to include five stages, themed streets featuring sights, sounds and foods of Brazil, the U.S. and the United Kingdom, plus thrill rides and shopping.

Cost figures and site plans for the City of Rock development weren't made public and will need approval from Clark County lawmakers. Tickets are expected to go on sale in January.

The event will be separate from the three-night Electric Daisy Carnival electronic music festival, held in June at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. It attracts more than 100,000 people, according to its parent company, Insomniac.

David Foster Wallace's estate opposes biopic

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Relatives of David Foster Wallace say they're opposed to the upcoming film "The End of the Tour," which is based on David Lipsky's 2010 book "Although Of Course You End Up Becoming Yourself: A Road Trip with David Foster Wallace."

In his book, Lipsky recounts accompanying Wallace, the author best known for his 1996 novel "Infinite Jest," on his book tour.

Production on "The End of the Tour," written by Donald Margulies, directed by James Ponsoldt ("The Spectacular Now"), and starring Jason Segel as Wallace and Jesse Eisenberg as Lipsky, wrapped in late March.

Lawyers for Wallace's family and literary trust said in a news release Monday that they "have no connection with, and neither endorse nor support" the film.

They add that "the trust was given no advance notice that this production was underway" and the film "is loosely based on transcripts from an interview David consented to 18 years ago for a magazine article. ... That article was never published and David would have never agreed that those saved transcripts could later be repurposed as the basis of a movie."

There was no mention of Lipsky's book in the release, which also states that "individuals and companies involved with the production were made keenly aware of the substantive reasons for the trust's and family's objections to this project."

The estate prefers Wallace, who killed himself in 2008, be "remembered for his extraordinary writing."

A representative at Morris Yorn Barnes Levine Krintzman Rubenstein & Kohner, which represents the family, did not reply to a request from The Associated Press for further comment.

"The End of the Tour" is being produced by Anonymous Content and Kilburn Media domestically, with Sony handling international distribution. Sony, Anonymous Content and Kilburn Media also did not respond to requests for comment.

Lohan says she had miscarriage

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan says she suffered a miscarriage during the taping of her reality TV series.

The 27-year-old actress made the disclosure during Sunday's final episode of "Lindsay," the OWN cable channel series.

Lohan said the miscarriage was the reason that she was unable to appear on the program at one point. She said she was sick and unable to move.

She didn't offer any further details on the program about her ill-fated pregnancy.

Lohan began taping the OWN reality show shortly after leaving her sixth stint in rehab last summer.

AP

In this Jan. 20, 2014 file photo, actress Lindsay Lohan addresses reporters during a news conference at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

Pharrell, Gaga to appear at iHeartRadio Awards

AP

This April 19, 2014 file photo shows Pharrell Williams performing at the 2014 Coachella Music and Arts Festival in Indio, Calif.

NEW YORK (AP)—Pharrell, Drake and Blake Shelton are among the A-listers set to perform at the first iHeartRadio Music Awards.

Clear Channel announced Monday that Kendrick Lamar, Shakira, Ed Sheeran and Arcade Fire will also take the stage at the May 1 awards show in Los Angeles. Lady Gaga, Katy Perry, Lorde and Coldplay's Chris Martin will make appearances.

Contenders for artist of the year include Rihanna, Maroon 5, Justin Timberlake, Imagine Dragons and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis.

The awards will air live on NBC from the Shrine Auditorium starting at 8 p.m. Eastern.

Luke Bryan, Pitbull, Ariana Grande and Thirty Seconds to Mars will also perform during the three-hour telecast.

Tom Petty reflects on 40 years of songwriting

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Forty years of practice has made songwriting harder, not easier, for Tom Petty.

"As life goes by, you get a little more carefree or distracted by other things and you have to really police yourself—I do—into sitting down and doing something that pleases me," the 63-year-old rocker said. "Plus, I'm trying to do things that I haven't done before and not go over the same ground."

The writer behind such hits as "American Girl," "Mary Jane's Last Dance" and "I Need to Know" will accept the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers' Founders Award on Wednesday in Los Angeles. Previous honorees include Stevie Wonder, Neil Young, Joni Mitchell and Billy Joel.

"It's very nice to get an award for songwriting," Petty said. "I'm duly impressed."

His process is much the same as it's always been: Sit down with the guitar and see what comes. When inspiration strikes, "it's a very real magic," he said.

So magical, in fact, that he hesitates to examine it too closely.

"It's really hard to explain because I don't really understand it myself," he said. "I know that when we have time booked, like when we set aside time to make a record, that's when I usually get pretty—I guess I get on the job as far as making sure I have enough songs, you know."

He sits and plays, recording bits here and there. The next day, he listens to what he did and either develops or scraps it.

Touring takes him out of the songwriting groove: "It takes me a few months after a tour to get back into the headspace to write songs."

Petty and his band just finished their latest album, "Hypnotic Eye," set for release this summer. That allowed time for him to check out Jimmy Fallon's recent duet—as Petty—with Stevie Nicks.

"I was amazed by how well they did the Heartbreakers," he said. "It was brilliant. Very funny."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

John Travolta to appear at Indian film awards

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—John Travolta will appear during the 15th International Indian Film Academy awards in Tampa. Organizers of the event said Monday that Travolta will receive the "Most Popular All-Time International Star in India" at the awards ceremony. The awards, making their debut in the United States, will be held Wednesday through Saturday at various venues in Tampa. The main event is Saturday at Raymond James Stadium. Some 30,000 people are expected to attend the event, which celebrates Indian film. Travolta is best known for his roles in such films as "Saturday Night Fever," ''Pulp Fiction," ''Grease," and "Get Shorty."

Craig Zadan, Neil Meron to produce 3rd Oscar show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The producers behind the last two Oscar telecasts are coming back for a third time. The film academy announced Monday that Craig Zadan and Neil Meron will return to produce the 87th annual Academy Awards. The two were responsible for the 2013 show hosted by Seth MacFarlane and this year's telecast starring Ellen DeGeneres. Film academy chief Dawn Hudson said Zadan and Meron "are masters at tapping into the zeitgeist." This year's show set social media records when DeGeneres' star-studded selfie became the most re-tweeted image ever. Meron said on Twitter on Monday that it's "a great honor" to produce the Oscar show again. The 87th Oscars will be held Feb. 22, 2015, at Hollywood's Dolby Theatre.

Married couple's sex life has become all about the numbers

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to a wonderful man for 30 years. Our marriage may not be perfect, but it's quite good.

My dilemma is this: My husband keeps track of every time we have sex and has a personal goal of 100 times a year. In 2013, he informed me that we'd had sex only 76 times, and that was not adequate for him. He was quite upset about it.

Do you think tracking your sex life is normal, and what do you think about a couple married for 30-plus years having sex 76 times in a year? Is that normal? Also, keep in mind that he travels for business and is gone about 60 days a year.

PRESSURED

DEAR PRESSURED: Your husband sounds like a college student who is striving to get 100 notches on his belt. Rather than obsess about the number of times you have had sex, the quality of the experience should be more important. Fifty GREAT times a year would be better than 100 so-so times, one would think. And no, I do not think your husband's preoccupation is "normal" —whatever normal is these days.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: After six years of unsuccessful fertility work, my husband and I were forced to give up. Last summer his sister offered to be a surrogate for us, and we'll use a donor egg since I have none. We have told only a few people.

We're having an embryo transfer next week and thought we'd wait until after the first trimester to "announce." But what is the proper way to do it when it's not actually I who is expecting? And is there etiquette for having a baby shower in this situation?

We're excited and proud of this opportunity, but it takes a lot of explaining for people to understand and not be judgmental. This is the closest we'll ever get to experiencing pregnancy, and I want to enjoy it to the fullest.

MODERN MOM-TO-BE IN WASHINGTON

DEAR MOM-TO-BE: Congratulations on your pregnancy. Because it takes explaining, I recommend you share the happy news with your family and close friends by telling them in person. That way, you can answer any questions they may have directly. When you want "the world" to know, you may decide to send a mass email or post photos on the Internet.

As to having a baby shower—because this is a happy event you are celebrating and you will need things for the baby, I'm sure a friend will want to host one for you. Be sure to include your sister-in-law if she would like to attend.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My 18-year-old granddaughter is seeing a 30-year-old man. What can I say to let her know he is way too old for her? I don't want her to hate me.

LOVING GRANDMA IN FLORIDA

DEAR LOVING GRANDMA: I don't think that telling your granddaughter the man is too old for her would be a good idea because it would imply that she is too young, and no 18-year-old wants to hear that. Tell her instead that you think she would have a lot more in common with someone closer to her age. This is particularly true if she is still in high school.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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Pastimes

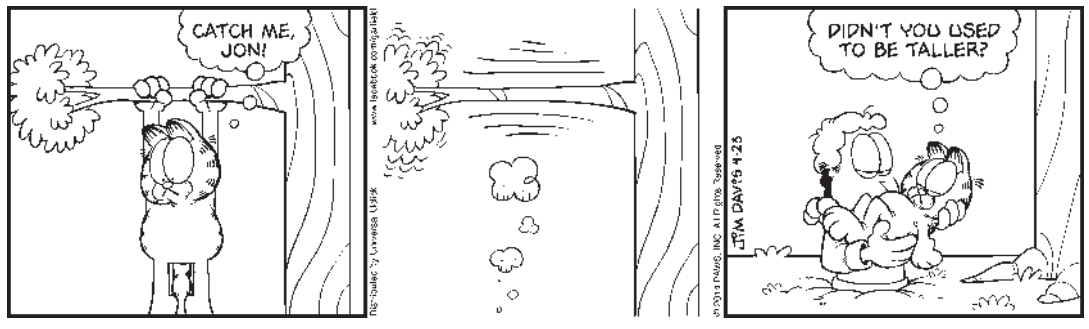
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

ANYWAY CHARLIE, I'M SORRY WE COULDN'T GO OUT TONIGHT, BUT THIS LITTLE CREEP'S PARENTS ARE SO DESPERATE TO GET AWAY FROM HIM ONCE IN A WHILE THAT THEY...
YAHH! FREEDOM AND JUSTICE SHALL ALWAYS PREVAIL OVER TYRANNY, BABY SITTER GIRL!
GET OFF ME, CALVIN, YOU PEST! OW! LET GO! QUIT IT!
STUPENDOUS MAN HAS THE STRENGTH OF A MILLION MORTAL MEN! GIVE UP!
LISTEN CHARLIE, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CALL YOU BACK. YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT THIS CRETIN IS WEARING.
WITH MUSCLES OF MAGNITUDE, STUPENDOUS MAN FIGHTS WITH HEROIC RESOLVE!

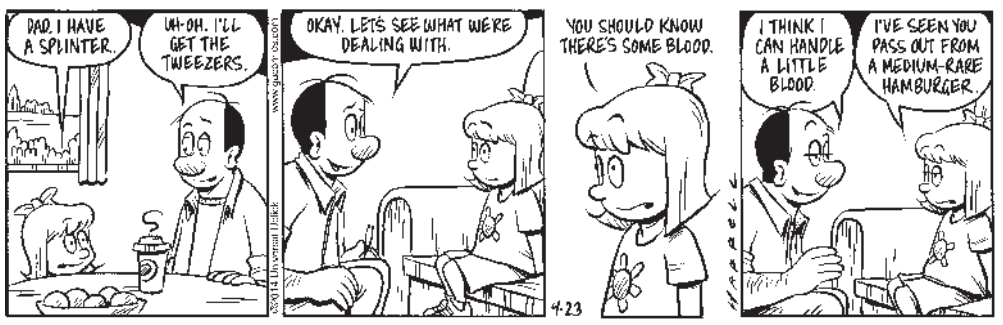
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



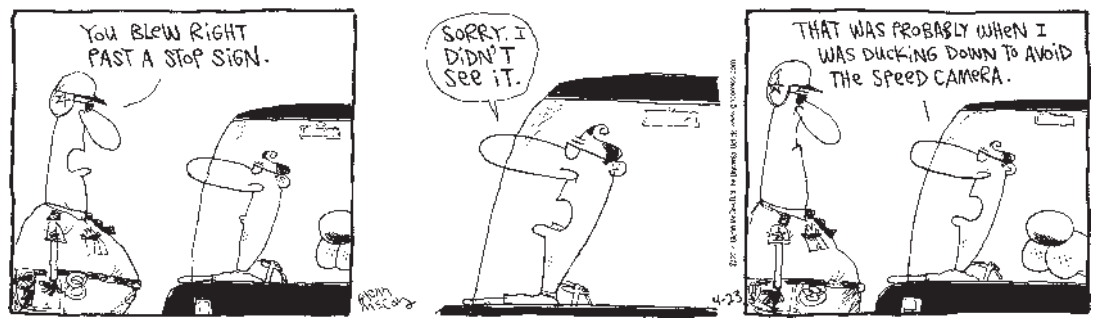
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DAD, I HAVE A SPLINTER.
UH-OH. I'LL GET THE TWEEZERS.
OKAY. LETS SEE WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.
YOU SHOULD KNOW THERE'S SOME BLOOD.
I THINK I CAN HANDLE A LITTLE BLOOD.
I'VE SEEN YOU PASS OUT FROM A MEDIUM-RARE HAMBURGER.
4-23

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

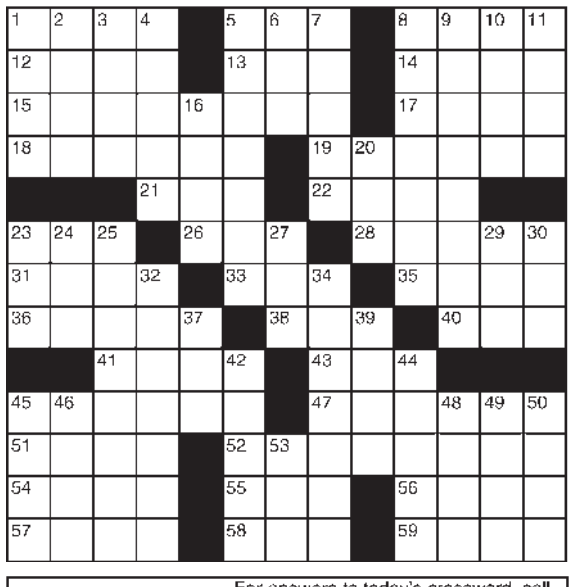
ACROSS
1 History chapters
5 Obama, for ex.
8 Disarray
12 Sinful habit
13 Lab eggs
14 Italian wine region
15 Trusted to a third party
17 "— see clearly now ..."
18 Come back
19 Comment
21 Wrestling surface
22 Eastern potentate
23 Gorilla
26 Journal
28 Felix of "The Odd Couple"
31 Relax
33 Gist
35 Attend
36 Virile
38 Unruly bunch
40 Bill
41 Mars' counterpart
43 "Arabian Nights" bird
45 Gunshot noise
47 Flickering light of a sort
51 Terrible guy?
52 Avoidance
54 Literature Nobelist Andre
55 Blond shade
56 Fringe benefit
57 Hearty brews
58 Encountered
59 Tackles' teammates

DOWN
1 Always
2 Go up
3 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
4 Antitoxin
5 "— Abbey"
6 Leading lady?
7 "The Treasure of the Sierra —"
8 Crippling
9 Snail on la carte
10 Celebrity
11 Founder
16 Exam format
20 Ostrich's cousin
23 Upper limb
24 Shell game item
25 Mischievous adventure
27 Wrigley product
29 Greek vowel
30 Steal from
32 "Game of —"
34 Beet recipe
37 "— the fields we go"
39 This and that
42 Radiator output
44 Thin pancake
45 Latvia's capital
46 Wicked
48 Actor Clive
49 Poet
50 Part of BPOE
53 Away from NNW

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	T	O	A	■	T	I	P	■	A	F	A	R
L	E	N	S	■	H	O	E	■	C	A	L	I
A	C	C	I	D	F	N	T	■	C	I	A	N
T	H	E	■	U	S	A	■	F	L	A	S	K
■	■	■	A	C	E	■	M	O	I	■	■	■
Q	U	I	C	K	■	H	A	R	M	O	N	Y
E	P	I	C	■	B	A	Y	■	A	R	I	A
D	I	S	O	B	E	Y	■	S	T	E	A	M
■	■	■	R	U	G	■	P	O	E	■	■	■
L	O	A	D	S	■	S	A	L	■	M	O	W
A	N	T	I	■	A	C	C	O	L	A	D	E
V	I	N	O	■	Y	A	K	■	A	M	I	D
A	N	O	N	■	E	M	S	■	P	A	N	S

Yesterday's answer 4-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dev Patel, 24; Jaime King, 35; Jonathan Ruckman, 45; George Lopez, 53

Happy Birthday: Take action; don't wait for others to do things for you. Stand tall and do whatever needs to be done. Learn from experience and take on whatever challenge comes your way. Helping others may frustrate you, but reserving judgment and containing your anger will be what leads to your success and recognition. Less talk and more action will seal the deal. Your numbers are 10, 12, 17, 23, 34, 39, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Playful action will draw positive attention. A change in a relationship will bring you closer together. Don't let peer pressure or someone's jealousy stand between you and your happiness. Consistency will help you avoid interference and establish greater security. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Do your research, learn all you can and discuss your options with someone you trust to give you solid suggestions. Don't let anyone make you feel guilty. Do what you can, but put your personal responsibilities first. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stay on top of what others are doing. Taking action in order to ensure that whatever job you are assigned is done to the best of your ability will keep you out of trouble and deter someone from trying to make you look bad. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Look over your personal papers and confirm any documentation that has been requested. Don't feel obliged to honor a favor if what's being asked of you is not within reason. Establish your position by being honest about the way you feel. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Keep moving. The less time you have to indulge in melodramas at work or at home, the better. Focus on personal change that will enable you to get ahead. A short trip will lead to valuable information. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Use your head and network all you can. The connections you make will help you find your niche. Exploring interesting concepts with someone unique will lead to a close relationship that will enable you to improve your position and your reputation. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A change of plans must not upset you. Follow through regardless of what others do. Interact with people you meet along the way and you will discover how much you have to offer. Don't let an emotional relationship hold you back. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Avoid emotional encounters. Focus on creative endeavors and short trips that will add to your cultural awareness. Love is in the stars, and romance will help to ease any stress you've been harboring. Self-improvement will boost your confidence. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Honesty will be required if you want to avoid an emotional setback with someone close to you. You are best to consider making positive changes at home. Physical activities will help ease tension and boost your confidence and your reputation. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Set your plan in motion, but don't interfere in what others are doing. Keeping the peace will buy you the freedom you need to do your own thing. Doing more and saying less will be your ticket to success. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Look at the past and use what you experienced in order to reach your future goals. A change in the way you earn your living or make your money work for you will bring benefits that will stabilize your life. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Strive to secure and stabilize your personal, financial and emotional life. Explore creative avenues and join forces with people you know can contribute to what you want to do. Reconnect with someone you miss and want back in your life. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, factual and traditional. You are powerful and outspoken.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					6	2	9	8
	8	3		1			5	
	7		2			3		
		9			4			
	3				5			
1			8	6		7		
3		7			1		2	5
6	2					4	3	
5						9		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	9	5	3	1	4	6	7	8
4	8	1	7	6	2	3	5	9
7	6	3	8	9	5	4	2	1
9	5	2	4	3	7	8	1	6
1	3	8	6	2	9	7	4	5
6	7	4	5	8	1	9	3	2
5	4	6	1	7	8	2	9	3
8	2	7	9	5	3	1	6	4
3	1	9	2	4	6	5	8	7

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/22

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BUBBLES ARE FUN! Solution: 11 letters

N	U	F	D	S	M	E	S	S	Y	L	L	H	O	S
W	W	R	E	R	O	L	P	X	E	A	L	O	U	H
I	A	O	T	D	N	A	W	I	U	T	A	M	T	O
B	R	T	N	Y	A	L	P	G	C	H	M	E	D	R
U	T	H	E	Z	I	S	H	A	S	E	S	M	O	E
R	S	R	C	R	W	T	R	E	R	R	R	A	O	L
S	U	D	S	I	E	B	S	T	R	A	Y	D	R	I
T	I	D	R	R	O	I	I	E	G	A	M	E	S	N
W	O	L	B	N	R	M	B	E	V	E	R	A	G	E
H	S	A	A	T	E	S	E	L	B	B	U	B	D	E
S	T	T	A	A	L	H	P	U	W	C	M	I	I	L
H	E	O	P	D	D	C	T	I	I	M	A	G	U	C
D	L	O	O	O	D	T	E	D	N	U	O	R	Q	R
F	O	N	U	S	O	A	K	C	D	G	F	E	I	I
L	A	I	R	H	T	C	O	L	O	R	F	U	L	C

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Air, Bath, Beverage, Big, Blow, Bubbles, Burst, Carbonated, Catch, Circle, Colorful, Explore, Float, Foam, Froth, Fun, Games, Gum, Homemade, Hot Tub, Lather, Laughter, Liquid, Loop, Messy, Outdoors, Play, Pour, Recipe, Rises, Round, Scented, Shoreline, Size, Small, Soak, Soap, Soda, Sooth, Spin, Straw, Suds, Summertime, Swirls, Toddler, Tray, Wand, Water, Wind

Yesterday's Answer: Outgoing

Treasury 12, 13, 14 or 15 can be purchased online at wonderword.universaluclick.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

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FEATURES:
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2014

Opening date: March 31, 2014 **Closing date: April 25, 2014**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

Position:
(1) Tinian Ports Manager (Tinian)
(3) ARFF Trainee (Saipan)
(1) Vessel Traffic Controller-I (Port of Saipan)
(1) Tariff Technician-I (Port of Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents is no later than ***4:30 p.m., Friday, April 25, 2014.***

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For more information, please contact the CPA HR Administrator Ms. Rita Omar, by email at rita.omar@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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/s/ MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director

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• 3-Liner	$15	$30
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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Grizzlies beat Thunder 111-105 in OT to tie series

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Nothing rattled the Memphis Grizzlies.

Not squandering a nine-point lead in the fourth quarter and a five-point lead in the final 19 seconds of regulation. Not Kevin Durant's 20 points after the third quarter. Not even giving up an improbable game-tying putback that forced overtime.

The Grizzlies remained steady and took care of business in the extra period. Zach Randolph scored 25 points to help Memphis defeat the Oklahoma City Thunder 111-105 in overtime on Monday night and tie their first-round playoff series at one game apiece.

"It was just staying confident, understanding that those guys are going to make runs," Memphis forward Tony Allen said. "We've got to weather the storm by staying together and not getting down."

Mike Conley added 19 points and 12 assists for the Grizzlies, who executed their game plan perfectly and put themselves in position to take control of the series in Game 3 Thursday night in Memphis. Oklahoma City pushed the pace through most of its 100-86 victory in Game 1, but on Monday, the Grizzlies successfully slowed the tempo and limited Oklahoma City's fast-break opportunities.

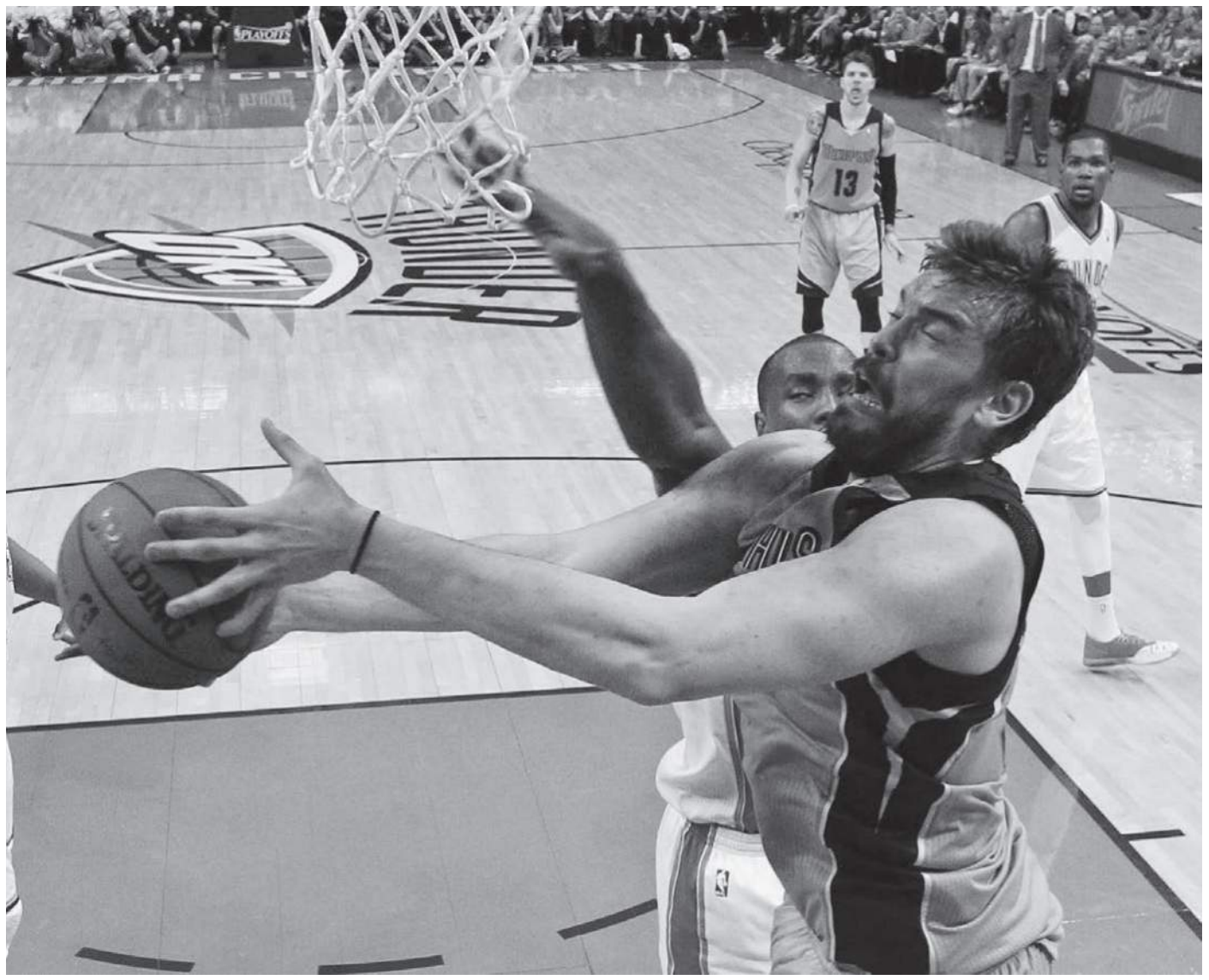
"Basically it's just going to be a slugfest," said Allen, who was praised by his teammates for playing solid defense against Durant. "We're going to pound it. They're going to run it. Whoever can come up with the most stops pretty much wins the game."

Oklahoma City's stars put up big numbers, but they worked for everything they got. Durant had 36 points and 11 rebounds, but he made just 12 of 28 shots and had just eight points at halftime and 16 through the first three quarters. Russell Westbrook scored 29 points for Oklahoma City, but he made just 11 of 28 shots. Serge Ibaka added 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Thunder, who shot just under 40 percent from the field.

"We missed some shots that we could make," Oklahoma City coach Scott Brooks said. "Give them some credit. They did a good job of putting their hands on us and we didn't free ourselves up enough. I thought in the second half, our defense and offense gave us a chance. Unfortunately, we didn't make a couple of key plays down the stretch."

Randolph's layup with 26 seconds left in overtime put the Grizzlies up by two. Ibaka traveled, giving the ball back to the Grizzlies.

Courtney Lee made two free throws for Memphis to make it a four-point game. Durant missed a 3-pointer and Randolph made two free throws with nine seconds left to put the game out of reach and give Memphis' Dave Joerger his first playoff win as a head coach.



AP

Memphis Grizzlies center Marc Gasol (33) is fouled by Oklahoma City Thunder forward Serge Ibaka (9) as he goes up for a shot in the third quarter of Game 2 of an opening-round NBA basketball playoff series in Oklahoma City, Monday, April 21, 2014.

"Tremendous game to be a part of," Joerger said. "I honestly can tell you that, whether you win or lose. I know that we won. But I thought it was a great game to be a part of. The game was never over. There was a lot of great plays and not just the-ball-going-in kind of plays—loose ball, passion, playoff basketball."

The Thunder trailed by nine early in the fourth quarter, but they finally took the lead when Thabo Sefolosha stole the ball from Randolph, leading to a dunk by Durant with 1:14 remaining.

Mike Miller came back with a 3-pointer to put Memphis up 95-93 with 53.7 seconds left.

Westbrook missed a 3-pointer and Memphis rebounded. Conley missed the first free throw and made the second to make it a three-point game.

Allen stole the ball from Durant, and Conley made two free throws with 18.1 seconds left to push the Grizzlies' lead to five.

Durant answered with a miraculous four-point play with 13.8 seconds remaining. He hit a 3-pointer from the corner as he was being pushed out of bounds by Marc Gasol. Durant then converted the free throw to make it a one-point game.

Conley made one of two free throws with 12 seconds left to make it 99-97. Westbrook missed a wild 3-pointer in the closing seconds, but Perkins, who hadn't made a field goal all game, scored to force overtime.

Clippers 138, Warriors 98

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin scored a career playoff-high 35 points without a foul and the Los Angeles Clippers led all the way in routing the Golden State Warriors 138-98 Monday night to even their first-round series at a game apiece.

Chris Paul added 12 points and 10 assists for the Clippers, who started the game on a 14-4 run and kept on going, maintaining a sizeable double-digit lead through the final three quarters. They finished with a franchise record points for a playoff game.

All the foul trouble that plagued Griffin and Paul in the Clippers' four-point loss in Game 1 belonged to the Warriors this time.

Stephen Curry scored 20 of his 24 points in the third quarter, when the Warriors never got closer than 25 points, while playing with four fouls. Klay Thompson finished with seven points—15 under his average—and four fouls. Andre Iguodala, who fouled out of Game 1, and Jermaine O'Neal had four points and three fouls each.

Game 3 is Thursday at Oakland.

Los Angeles shot 57 percent, made 12 of 25 3-pointers, hit 32 of 35 free throws and owned a 25-13 edge in fastbreak points.

The Clippers' lead grew to a 37-point bulge early in the fourth on a 3-pointer by Matt Barnes, their only starter who played albeit briefly in the final period. He finished with 13 points. Danny Granger had 15 points before fouling out. DeAndre Jordan had 11 points and nine rebounds.

The teams with a history of bad blood between them jawed in the fourth, when Clippers Hedo Turkoglu and Glen Davis got into it with Marreese Speights of the Warriors. Davis and Speights were called for double technicals.

The Warriors' frustration boiled over with 42 seconds left when Jordan Crawford was called for a flagrant foul-1 for shoving Darren Collison who was bringing the ball upcourt.

Griffin had 21 points in 20 minutes of the first half, one minute more than he played in the Clippers' loss on Saturday. He fouled out of that game, when Paul was also in foul trouble and made several mistakes in the closing minutes after the Clippers rallied to tie the game late.

The Clippers got off to a 14-4 start, similar to their 12-1 start of two days ago. This time, though, the referees' whistles were blowing at the Warriors. Thompson, O'Neal and Iguodala all had three each by halftime, when they trailed 67-41.

Golden State had 33 fouls to 22 for the Clippers.

The Clippers outscored Golden State by 11 points in the opening quarter and by 15 in the second. Curry got double-teamed for the second straight game, and he struggled offensively, making just one basket and two free throws in the first half.

The Clippers' second unit grew the lead from 11 points to 21 in the second, helped by consecutive 3-pointers from Jamal Crawford, Turkoglu and Granger. The starters came back in and had just four baskets the rest of the quarter while hitting 9 of 11 free throws to stretch the lead at the break.

Thompson got whistled for his fourth foul barely a minute into the third. David Lee, who had a double-double in Game 1, had 11 points.

Woodson, Corbin fired: Adelman decides to retire

Mike Woodson and Tyrone Corbin lost their jobs, and Rick Adelman decided it was time to walk away from his.

Woodson and Corbin were fired Monday and Adelman retired, creating coaching openings for three NBA teams.

Woodson was expected to be replaced after Phil Jackson was hired last month as New York Knicks president during a disappointing season for a team that expected to make the playoffs. He informed Woodson and the entire coaching staff they were being dismissed Monday morning.

"The coaches and players on this team had an extremely difficult 2013-14 season, and blame should not be put on one individual. But the time has come for change throughout the franchise as we start the journey to assess and build this team for next season and beyond," Jackson said in a statement.

Woodson went 109-79 with the Knicks, a .580 winning percentage that ranks behind only Pat Riley and Jeff Van Gundy in franchise history. But after winning 54 games and the Atlantic Division title last season, the Knicks were just 37-45.

The Jazz had no such expectations for this season after the departures of Al Jefferson and Paul Millsap, but declined to offer Corbin a new contract after they went 25-57. Corbin, a former Jazz player and assistant who replaced Jerry Sloan on Feb. 10, 2011, went 112-146.

"This has not been an easy decision, but after a thorough review process, we as an organization feel that this is the best decision for our franchise moving forward," general manager Dennis Lindsay said.

Adelman won more than 1,000 games in 23 seasons, but the Minnesota Timberwolves were a disappointing 40-42 this season. He wanted to spend more time with wife Mary Kay, who has been treated for seizures over the last two years, and also thinks the Wolves need a fresh voice to help them try to persuade star power forward Kevin Love to remain in Minnesota.

"If anything, I felt if I coached another year and then his future comes up and my future is gone, that makes it even harder," Adelman said. "I think it's best for the organization to have somebody else coaching the team, give them a year to see what they can do and hear that voice. I think that's a much more positive situation for the organization. I feel strongly about that."

The Detroit Pistons are still looking for a full-time coach after firing Maurice Cheeks during the season, and the Los Angeles Lakers could decide to replace Mike D'Antoni after going 27-55 during an injury-plagued season.

Early hitting carries Orioles over Red Sox, 7-6

BOSTON (AP)—Clay Buchholz allowed six runs in the third inning as the Baltimore Orioles held on to beat the Red Sox 7-6 Monday in the annual Patriots' Day morning game at Fenway Park, a year after the Boston Marathon bombings.

Trailing by two runs, Boston loaded the bases in the ninth. Mike Napoli hit an RBI groundout before Tommy Hunter, Baltimore's fifth reliever, retired Mike Carp on a game-ending grounder for his fifth save.

The game began at 11:09 a.m., about an hour before Meb Keflezighi crossed the marathon finish line just over a mile away as the first American man to win since Greg Meyer in 1983.

Chen Wei-yin (3-1) allowed three runs and five hits in five innings. Buchholz (0-2) gave up seven hits in 2 1-3 innings.

Indians 4, Royals 3

In Cleveland, Jason Kipnis and Michael Brantley hit two-run homers, powering the Indians over the Royals when a fearless squirrel ran around Progressive Field and provided some extra entertainment.

Kipnis connected in the sixth inning off Jeremy Guthrie (2-1), overcoming a 3-2 deficit. Brantley provided Cleveland a 2-0 lead in the fourth.

Zach McAllister (3-0) gave up six hits and overcame three errors—one on his errant throw.

Alex Gordon and Omar Infante each had two of the Royals' six hits.

The game was momentarily delayed in the second inning when a squirrel ran onto the field. The pesky intruder hung around for another inning before it was shooed into the Indians' center-field bullpen.

White Sox 3, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Jose Abreu and Dayan Viciedo hit RBI doubles in the seventh inning as the White Sox rallied for a victory over the Tigers.

Chicago scored three runs in the seventh off Anibal Sanchez (0-2) after managing only one hit in the first six innings. John Danks (2-0) allowed six hits and three walks in 6 1-3 innings, but the Tigers could score only one run off him.

Ronald Belisario got five outs in relief for the White Sox, and Matt Lindstrom pitched the ninth for his second save.

Astros 7, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Matt Dominguez homered and drove in three runs, and Dallas Keuchel struck out a season-high eight as the Astros broke a seven-game skid with a win over the Mariners.

It is the seventh straight loss for Seattle, which is the longest active streak in the majors.

The Astros took advantage of an error by Mariners third baseman Kyle Seager in the sixth inning to score four unearned runs off Felix Hernandez (3-1) and break a 2-all tie.

Hernandez took the major league lead with 43 strikeouts after recording four, but was unable to avoid his first loss of the season after shaky defense put the right-hander in a tough situation in the sixth.

Keuchel (2-1) deftly navigated the Mariners for six innings, allowing six hits and a walk, but just two runs.

Rangers 4, Athletics 3

In Oakland, California, Donnie Murphy lined a go-ahead single up the middle with one out in the eighth inning as the Rangers rallied from an early three-run deficit to beat the Athletics.

Sean Doolittle (0-1) allowed a leadoff double to Kevin Kouzmanoff and Mitch Moreland sacrificed him to third before Murphy's hit. Murphy and Kouzmanoff are both former A's players.

Neal Cotts (1-1) pitched one inning for the win, then gave way to Alexi Ogando before Joakim Soria finished for his fourth save.

Brandon Moss homered and Coco Crisp hit a two-run single as the A's went ahead 3-0 in the second, but they couldn't hold the lead.

Oakland swept a weekend series against Houston and lost for only the second time in nine games and third time in 14.

Pirates 6, Reds 5

In Pittsburgh, Ike Davis became the first player to hit grand slams for different teams in the same April, and Neil Walker had a winning run single with two outs in the ninth inning as the Pittsburgh Pirates twice overcame deficits to beat the Reds 6-5 Monday.

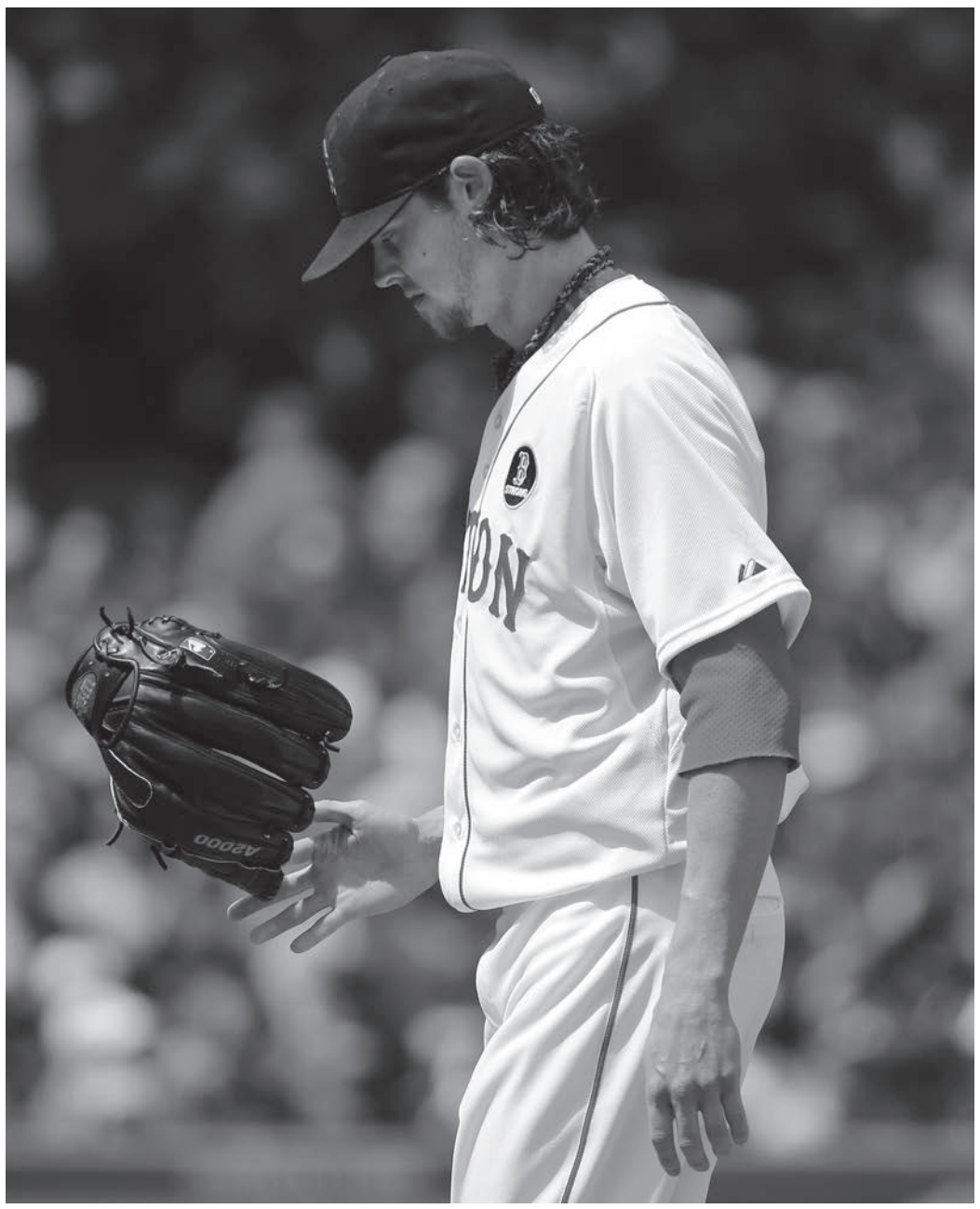
Pittsburgh trailed 2-0 before Davis' fourth-inning homer off Mike Leake. Davis hit a game-winning, ninth-inning slam off the Reds' J.J. Hoover on April 5 for the New York Mets, who traded him to the Pirates on Friday.

According to STATS, no player previously hit slams for different teams in the same April. Davis became just the third to hit slams for different teams against the same opponent in the same year, following Ray Boone in 1953 and Mike Piazza in 1998.

The Pirates were behind 5-4 before Andrew McCutchen's leadoff homer in the eighth against Manny Parra.

Walker got the winning hit off Hoover (1-2) after consecutive one-out walks to Russell Martin and Andrew McCutchen followed by Pedro Alvarez's popout.

Jared Hughes (1-0) pitched a scoreless, two-hit ninth for the win after being recalled from Triple-A Indianapolis earlier in the day.



AP

Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Clay Buchholz flips his glove while heading for the dugout after being pulled from the game after he gave up six runs to the Baltimore Orioles during the third inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston Monday, April 21, 2014.

Angels 4, Nationals 2

In Washington, Raul Ibanez delivered a tiebreaking three-run double as a pinch hitter in the eighth inning on a night that Mike Trout and Bryce Harper went a combined 2 for 8 with zero runs or RBIs in their first matchup as opponents.

Los Angeles trailed 1-0 going into the eighth. But Albert Pujols—who went 0 for 5, staying on 498 homers—reached on the first of shortstop Ian Desmond's two errors in the inning, raising his season total to nine. Later, Erick Aybar's third hit of the night scored Pujols to even it.

After Tyler Clippard (1-2) walked the bases loaded, Ibanez doubled to left-center.

Fernando Salas (1-0) won with a hitless seventh.

Joe Smith worked the eighth and Ernesto Frieri pitched the ninth to earn his second save, despite allowing Desmond's leadoff homer. Frieri struck out Denard Span with a man on second to end it.

Braves 4, Marlins 2, 10 innings

In Atlanta, Evan Gattis hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning, leading the Atlanta Braves past the Miami Marlins 4-2 Monday night.

Dan Uggla led off with a single up the middle off Arquimedes Caminero (0-1), and Gattis followed with a shot into the left-field seats for his fifth homer of the season — and first career walkoff homer.

Andrelton Simmons homered for the Braves, and Jason Heyward put Atlanta 2-1 with a seventh-inning single off Mike Dunn. Anthony Varvaro (1-0) worked a scoreless inning for the win.

N.Y. Mets 2, St. Louis 0

In New York, Jenrry Mejia pitched four-hit ball into the seventh inning and David Wright delivered another key hit.

Wright lined an early RBI single that extended his hitting streak to 12 games and Kyle Farnsworth earned his first save as the New York's newest closer.

On an evening when the Mets debuted new camouflage tops to salute the military, they looked sharp. The Cardinals lost for the third time in four games.

Mejia (3-0) bounced back well from a torn blister on his right middle finger that limited him to five innings in his last start. The 24-year-old righty began the game by getting Matt Carpenter to look at three straight strikes, and rarely was in trouble.

Tyler Lyons (0-1) lost in his first major league game of the season. Promoted from Triple-A Memphis earlier in the day to take the rotation spot of injured Joe Kelly, he allowed two runs and six hits in six innings.

Milwaukee 4, San Diego 3

In Milwaukee, Aramis Ramirez homered and Ryan Braun drove in two runs.

Wily Peralta (3-0) gave up three runs and six hits in 6 1-3 innings as the Brewers improved their major league-best record to 15-5. Peralta stuck out six.

Will Smith pitched out of a base-loaded jam in the seventh inning. Tyler Thornberg worked a scoreless eighth and Francisco Rodriquez finished for his eighth save this season and 312th of his career, good for 19th on the career list.

Andrew Cashner (2-2) gave up four runs and seven hits in six innings.

Rockies 8, Giants 2

In Denver, Charlie Blackmon hit two of Colorado's five homers and Jorge De La Rosa threw five efficient innings, lifting the Rockies to a victory over the Giants.

Nolan Arenado, Wilin Rosario and Corey Dickerson also homered for the Rockies, who've won four of the last five. It was Blackmon's first multihomer game of his career.

De La Rosa (1-3) rediscovered his rhythm, allowing five hits and one run for his first victory of the season. The hard-throwing lefty tied a career high with 16 wins last season.

Ryan Vogelsong (0-1) never got on track and was pulled after 1 1-3 innings, his shortest start with the Giants. He surrendered five runs and six hits, including three homers.

Blackmon lined solo homers in the second and eighth innings. He's now hitting .411 this season.

Phillies 7, Dodgers 0

In Los Angeles, Cliff Lee scattered four hits over eight innings, struck out 10 and retired 21 of his last 22 batters to lead the Phillies to a victory over the Dodgers.

Carlos Ruiz hit a two-run homer and a two-run double and Ryan Howard also went deep for the Phillies in the opener of a four-game series.

Lee (3-2) had at least one strikeout in every inning he pitched and did not walk a batter, giving way to Jeff Manship after 113 pitches.

Lee has 38 strikeouts and two walks through his first five starts, after leading the majors in strikeout to-walk ratio and fewest walks per nine innings during each of the previous two seasons.

Cubs 5, Diamondbacks 1

In Chicago, Travis Wood hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs to back his nine-strikeout performance on the mound, leading the Cubs to a victory over thea Diamondbacks.

Wood (1-2) gave up a run and six hits over seven innings. His four RBIs and nine strikeouts matched career highs.

Bronson Arroyo (1-2) allowed five runs and eight hits in 5 1-3 innings for Arizona. The Diamondbacks have lost nine of 10 games and have the worst record in the majors (5-17).

Welington Castillo hit a two-out bloop single to right field to score Starlin Castro from second for a 1-0 lead in the second inning.

Ryan Kalish followed Castillo's RBI single with a single of his own to extend the inning. Bronson Arroyo fell behind in the count 1-0 before Wood hit a hanging slider for a three-run shot into the left field bleachers. It was Wood's seventh career home run.

In show of defiance, 32,000 run Boston Marathon

BOSTON (AP)—Some ran to honor the dead and wounded. Others were out to prove something to the world about their sport, the city or their country. And some wanted to prove something to themselves.

With the names of the victims scrawled on their bodies or their race bibs, more than 32,000 people ran in the Boston Marathon on Monday in a powerful show of defiance a year after the deadly bombing.

"We're marathon runners. We know how to endure," said Dennis Murray, a 62-year-old health care administrator from Atlanta who finished just before the explosions last year and came back to run again. "When they try to take our freedom and our democracy, we come back stronger."

The two pressure cooker bombs that went off near the end of the 26.2-mile course last year killed three people and wounded more than 260 in a spectacle of torn limbs, acrid smoke and broken glass. But the city vowed to return even stronger, and the victory by Meb Keflezighi—the first American in 31 years to win the men's race—helped deliver on that promise.

On Twitter, President Barack Obama congratulated Keflezighi and Shalane Flanagan, the top American finisher among the women, "for making America proud!"

"All of today's runners showed the world the meaning of (hash)BostonStrong," Obama wrote.

The race was held under extraordinary security, including 100 new surveillance cameras, more than 90 bomb-sniffing dogs and officers posted on roofs.

As runners continued to drag themselves across the finish line in the late afternoon, more than six hours into the race, state emergency officials reported no security threats other than some unattended bags.

Kenya's Rita Jeptoo won the women's race in a course-record 2 hours, 18 minutes, 57 seconds, defending the title she won last year but could not celebrate because of the tragedy.

Keflezighi, who did not run last year because of an injury, won the main event this year in 2:08:37. A 38-year-old U.S. citizen who emigrated from Eritrea as a boy, Keflezighi wrote the names of the three dead on his bib along with that of the MIT police officer killed during the manhunt.

As he was presented with the trophy and golden laurel wreath, "The Star-Spangled Banner" echoed over Boylston Street, where the explosions rang out a year ago.

AP

Double amputee Celeste Corcoran, center, a victim of last year's bombings, reaches the finish line of the 118th Boston Marathon, Monday, April 21, 2014, in Boston, with the aid her sister Carmen Acabbo, left, and daughter Sydney, right, who was also wounded last year.

"I came as a refugee, and the United States gave me hope," said Keflezighi, who was welcomed by fans chanting "U.S.A.!" "This is probably the most meaningful victory for an American, because of what happened last year."

At 2:49 p.m., the time of the first explosion, the crowd at the finish line observed a moment of silence—then broke into some of the loudest cheers of the day, with whooping, clapping and the clanging of cowbells.

This year's starting field of 32,408 included 600 people who were given special invitations for those who were "profoundly impacted" by the attacks, and almost 5,000 runners who were stopped on the course last year when the bombs went off.

"Today, when I got to that point, I said, `I have to do some unfinished business,'" said runner Vicki Schmidt, 52, of Nashville. She added: "You can't hold us back. You can't get us down. Boston is magical. This is our place."

Some of the victims themselves returned for a ceremonial crossing of the finish line.

"It was hard. It was really hard," said Heather Abbott, who wore a "Boston Strong" sticker on the black prosthesis where her left leg used to be. "I was really nervous. I didn't want to fall. ... I'm just glad we made it."

Tatyana McFadden, who was 6 and sickly when she was adopted out of a Russian orphanage by an American, won the women's wheelchair race for the second straight year. Afterward, she spoke of Martin Richard, the 8-year-old boy who was the youngest of those killed in the explosions.

"I have a Russian heritage, but I am an American," McFadden said. "For today, not only was I running for Martin and his family, but all those other people that were affected by last year."

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 20, is awaiting trial in the attack and could get the death penalty. Prosecutors said he and his older brother—ethnic Chechens who came to the U.S. from Russia more than a decade ago—carried out the attack in retaliation for U.S. wars in Muslim lands.

Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, died in a shootout with police days after the bombings.

"It was a hard last year," Lee Ann Yanni, whose left leg was badly hurt in the bombing, said moments after crossing the finish line. "And we're just so much better and stronger."

FALCONS

From Page 28

double to Laolao's Kawika Fernandez at the bottom of the first inning with the latter driving Justin Agulto home. Despite making it to the board right in the first inning, Laolao Bay still trailed, 1-2, as the Falcons got two runs at the top of the opening frame. Joel Norita scored the first run for the Falcons when he made it home off an error from Laolao Bay third baseman Franko Namauleg, while Aven Evangelista recorded the second from Angel Iguel's sacrifice out.

The Falcons hung on to the shaky lead in the second inning, as Cangco struck out Laolao Bay's first three batters before gaining more cushion in the third, 7-1. Arby Yaguel connected on a two-run single at the top of the third and the Falcons bagged three more runs off Laolao Bay's defensive lapses to widen the gap.

The eventual pennant champions went on to tuck in one run each in the fourth and sixth inning with Evangelista scoring off a fielder's choice and Cangco stealing home, while Laolao Bay continued to have a miserable time on offense.

Laolao Bay was called for two quick strikeouts in the third and was done in the inning after only three batters. It also went 1-2-3 in the fifth and sixth inning and missed a chance to score a couple of runs in the fourth, as it had three runners stranded. J.P. Celis led off for Laolao at the bottom of the fourth, singled, and made it all the way to the third. Fernandez was next at bat and was booted out with Evangelista catching the former's line drive. K.C. Kalen batted third and singled, while Donovan Babauta walked after Thomas Agulto grounded out at first. With two outs and runners on the corners, all eyes were focused on Namauleg, who succumbed to the pressure as he was struck out by Cangco.

Meanwhile, results of the two other Major division games will be reported later this week.

TAGAMAN

From Page 28

mer PDI president Yoichi Matsumura is also a co-founder, but is now in Japan and could not attend the ceremony. Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio handed the plaques and thanked the founders for their contribution to the promotion of sports tourism in the CNMI.

Guerrero and company started Tagaman in 1988 with the group going to Okinawa, Japan, to watch the Miyakojima Triathlon and see how the same event could be held on Saipan. The rest was history, as they say, with Tagaman attracting hundreds of off-islands athletes and producing local talents.

"It's a great event. J.M., who was then the head of the former Marianas Visitors Bureau, looked for an activity that could bring in people to the CNMI and after several meetings and our trip to Miyakojima, the idea of holding a similar triathlon event came up," said Sakovich, who is now based in Hawaii, but keeps coming back to Saipan every year for Tagaman and XTERRA Saipan.

"It's worth coming here every year. Even if I am away for more than 10 years now, I still know my assignment for the event. I love working here with the very supportive community," Sakovich said after receiving the plaque of appreciation.

Wojica echoed Sakovich's sentiments, saying that it is through the active involvement of the community that Tagaman still exists.

"The volunteers, the private and public sectors, they all come together for Tagaman. Events in other countries would have to pay for logistics and personnel to get things done, but here on Saipan, you have volunteers and other concerned groups doing things for free. The secret to Tagaman's 25 years of existence is definitely the community," said Wojica in an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune* one day before he left the island for good.

"I will definitely miss the people I work with in making sure we host a good tournament. I just wish that people who will take over the event will continue to gain valuable support from the community," Mojica said.

While Mojica hopes for the backing of the community, Guerrero, during the awards ceremony, wishes for more participants in the coming races to boost tourism. Tagaman had its biggest turnout in 1992 when 361 individuals joined the road race, while this year's event drew 128 participants with half of them hailing from off-island.

JP WORLD

From Page 28

only other double-figure scorer for JP World with his 11 markers. McCain and Don Brennan top-scored for High Five with 22 points apiece, while Tim Wesley chipped in 11.

High-Five had to rally in the fourth quarter after scoring only 2 points and one field goal in the last five minutes and change of the third period. The game was still tied, 50-all, after High-Five's Coldeen hit a fastbreak layup. But that was before JP World went on a 14-2 windup to build a double-digit advantage at the end of the third canto, 64-52. Pelisamen logged 7 points in the exchange, Estolas had a triple, and Manolo Manalo made back-to-back baskets, while Joe Acosta drilled the lone field goal for High-Five under the one-minute mark of that frame.

JP World kept it going in the first minute of the final canto with Juan Camacho opening the fourth with a triple and Sison converting two straight bank shot to give their team its biggest lead. Holding a comfortable 17-point advantage, JP World relaxed a bit, allowing High-Five to mount a comeback, which Pelisamen eventually foiled after scoring 10 of his team's last 12 points.

The win was JP World's second in three games, while the loss was High-Five's third in four matches. Both teams came from defeats with JP World bowing to unbeaten Blue Haus (3-0) and High-Five losing to the Hoopaholics on April 14 before the league took a break in observance of the Lenten season.

JP World 86 – Pelisamen 41, Sison 11, Manalo 8, Paraiso 8, Camacho 5, J. Estolas 4, D. Estolas 2, Peredo 2, Deocares 2.

High-Five 75 – McCain 22, Brennan 22, Wesley 11, Coldeen 8, Park 6, Acosta 4, Aughenbaugh 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-14, 44-36, 64-52, 86-75.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	11	8	.579	–
Toronto	10	9	.526	1
Baltimore	9	9	.500	1½
Tampa Bay	9	10	.474	2
Boston	9	11	.450	2½

Central Division

Detroit	9	7	.563	–
Chicago	10	10	.500	1
Kansas City	9	9	.500	1
Minnesota	9	9	.500	1
Cleveland	9	10	.474	1½

West Division

Oakland	13	6	.684	–
Texas	12	8	.600	1½
Los Angeles	9	10	.474	4
Seattle	7	12	.368	6
Houston	6	14	.300	7½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	13	6	.684	–
Washington	11	9	.550	2½
New York	10	9	.526	3
Philadelphia	9	10	.474	4
Miami	9	11	.450	4½

Central Division

Milwaukee	15	5	.750	–
St. Louis	11	9	.550	4
Pittsburgh	9	11	.450	6
Cincinnati	8	11	.421	6½
Chicago	6	12	.333	8

West Division

Los Angeles	12	8	.600	–
San Francisco	11	9	.550	1
Colorado	11	10	.524	1½
San Diego	9	11	.450	3
Arizona	5	17	.227	8

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rites of Passage 16: Unleashed

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ultimate Guam's Ethan "Typhoon" Reyes unloads a kick on Down 2 Scrap's Jonathan "Britt" Camacho during their kickboxing match in Trench Tech's Rites of Passage: 16 "Unleashed" held last April 11 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Trench Tech's Jasper "The Disaster" Van Der Maas, left, avoids a punch from Primo Po.

Guam Muay Thai's Albert "Butu" Andrea kicks KYA's John Tudela on the stomach.

Zalaka's Allan "The Silver Bullet" Aguon lets go of a kick against Guam HBP's Ernie Santos.

Down 2 Scrap's Jay "Bonbon" Camacho puts on a chokehold against Trench Tech's Seongho Chung.

Referee Keith Nabors gives brief safety reminders to two fighters.

Trench Tech Slade "The Rage" Adelbai connects on a cross to Young Blood's Rocky "Rockstar" Quichocho.

Trench Tech's Vince "The Clinch" Masga grapples against Countershot Guam's Rick "2Slick" Camp.

Trench Tech's Ning "The Slicer' Cepeda, left, and Guam Gracia Barra's Jose "Young Blood" Ramirez are engaged in a stand-up fight.

Grizzlies beat Thunder 111-105 in OT to tie series
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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Early hitting carries Orioles over Red Sox, 7-6
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Falcons seize Majors pennant

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Falcons soared past Laolao Bay, 9-1, to take the pennant in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The defending champions now have a 12-1 record and are likely to finish on top of the 15-team field, ahead of IT&E (12-2) and the Braves (11-3) even if the Falcons drop their remaining game in the regular season. An IT&E and Falcons tie at 12-2 would still leave the latter with the pennant because of the winner-over-the-other rule. The Falcons eked out an 8-5 victory over IT&E in their Feb. 15 meeting, while the former absorbed their lone loss so far in the tournament at the hands of the Braves, 2-12.

Pitcher Justin Cangco led the Falcons' pennant-clinching victory over Laolao Bay (7-6). He pitched six complete innings and gave up only three hits and one earned run. The Falcons pitcher also had eight strikeouts.

Cangco gave up an early

See FALCONS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Falcons pitcher Justin Cangco catches a throw from catcher Angel Iguel during the bottom of the fifth inning of their game against Laolao Bay in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

JP World brings down High-Five

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

JP World withstood High-Five's fourth-quarter rally to nail an 86-75 win at the resumption of action in the 2014 QQ Rent A Car Invitational Basketball League last Monday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Freddie Pelisamen canned back-to-back triples in the last two minutes of the match to thwart High-Five, which threatened JP World, moving within 7 points, 71-78, after falling behind by as much as 17 markers, 69-52, early in the fourth canto.

High-Five outgunned JP World during a four-minute stretch, 19-6, with big man Ken McCain scoring the former's last two baskets off a two-handed slam and a putback off his own miss. JP World lost the double-digit deficit, as it opted to give playing time to its second stringers and left Pelisamen and fellow starter Jun Estolas on the bench.

Sensing trouble, JP World coach Marvin Deocares recalled his key players and Pelisamen quickly responded with an and-1 play from beyond the arc. The former CNMI National Team member went for an isolation play against High-Five's Bobby Coldeen and with the 24-second shot clock down to 8, he pulled up for a triple from the right key, was bumped by his defender and still made the long jumper

Pelisamen completed the rare 4-point play to bring JP World's lead back to twin digits, 82-71, with 1:34 left in the fourth quarter. High-Five missed on the other end, returning possession to JP World, which got another triple from Pelisamen to seal the win, 85-71, going into the last one minute of the match.

Pelisamen finished the game with a season-high 41 points, while Marlon Sison was the

See JP WORLD on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
High-Five's Tim Wesley has nowhere to go as he is hemmed in by JP World's Rolly Paraiso, left, and Juan Camacho during the second quarter of their game in the QQ caging last Monday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Tagaman founders recognized

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The men behind Tagaman Triathlon were honored just in time when one of the oldest triathlon events in the region has reached a milestone.

Tagaman founders—J.M. Guerrero, Wolf Mojica, and Bill Sakovich—were handed with plaques of appreciation during the awards ceremony for the silver anniversary of Tagaman Triathlon on April 12 at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. For-

See TAGAMAN on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, right, delivers a message to the Tagaman Triathlon founders, from left, Bill Sakovich, J.M. Guerrero, and Wolf Mojica during a brief awards ceremony early this month at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Also in the photo is MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas.